

# PATRICIA SWEETOW GALLERY

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## **Frederick Hayes**

Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center  
Buffalo, New York

The work of Frederick Hayes involves itself with creating histories of specific environments based upon composite drawings that are a direct response to the original environment.

Utilizing both original and found photographs, Hayes develops new drawings in a broad expressionist manner that depict the selected environments through both animate (facial portraiture) and inanimate (cars, neighborhoods, etc.) images. As an African American artist originally from the South, Hayes' work has been an ongoing journey of discovery and rediscovery, framing his own set of experiences through the lens of other African American communities throughout the country. Through this process, the commonalities of personal, regional and national identity are highlighted, while the pseudo-fictional rendition of Hayes' final version draws his work into a space where broadly humanist ideas are highlighted, originating but not contingent upon their original source of inspiration.