

PATRICIA SWEETOW GALLERY

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Fred Hayes at Linc

By Kenneth Baker

Linc Gallery moved not long ago from its Otis Street address to the junction of Market and Rose streets. Light in this south-facing space suited its former occupants, the cactus merchants Red Desert, better than a gallery.

But less-than-ideal light takes nothing away from the charcoal drawings of Bay Area artist Fred Hayes. Hayes does not make overtly political art. But an African American's portraits of black men, real or invented, skirting caricature as his do, set up a buzz of social self-consciousness. In more ways than one they make us think about where we stand.

Even when Hayes flirts with stereotypes, as some of his titles hint, or with the shorthand of the police sketch artist, his drawings proclaim the innate fascination of the human face.

His faces also turn his drawing hand loose, reminding us how much immediacy charcoal and eraser can produce.