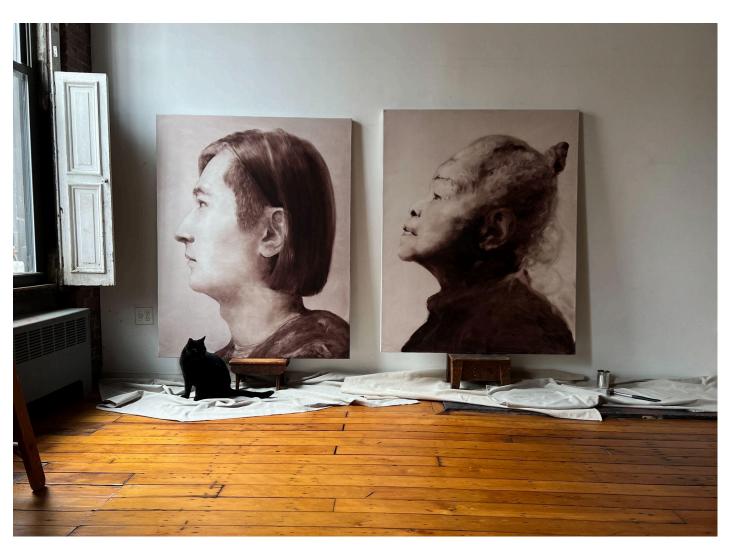
764 Miami Circle NE, Ste I 50 Atlanta, Georgia 30324 info@marciawoodgallery.com 404.827.0030 MARCIAWOODGALLERY.COM MARCIA WOOD GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26 - May 25, 2024

Opening Reception; Friday April 26, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

KATE JAVENS Good Neighbor



Kate Javens, Studio View, 127th St. New York City, April 2024

Marcia Wood Gallery is thrilled to present the first body of work by Kate Javens of human portraits, entitled *Good Neighbor*.

Javens is known for her compelling portraits of animals chosen to represent figures in American history who represent an altruism and social activism that deserve to be commemorated. The *Good Neighbor* exhibition presents eight breathtaking large scale portraits of people.

Kate Javen's paintings in oil are extraordinary both for the beauty of her brushstroke as well as for their passionate moral intensity. In a painting style that synthesizes an Old Masters clarity of light with a basis in American naturalism and realism, Javens connects with the viewer by an empathy to her subjects.

"This show is a celebration of the people around you who save your life everyday—the people who show up, who you trust, who live lives of service....and frankly, it's all of us".

- Kate Javens

Kate Javens moved to 127th St. in New York City in 2008 and joined the neighborhood's historic community garden, The Reverend Linnette C. Williamson Memorial Park Association, where she has worked alongside her neighbors for 15 years. This body of work represents the good people who come through for the greater community, rain or shine, year after year--not only as stewards of the shared gardens, growing food and flowers, they also support a score of additional services to aid their neighborhood, giving time, muscle and joy.

Painted here are the leaders with whom Javens has worked most closely, as well as several children who grew up in the gardens. Participation in Javen's project is another act of the their generosity. The *Good Neighbor* series will ultimately honor the more than fifty families of volunteers.

Kate Javens was born in Missouri and spent her childhood in Japan, Mexico, and the bicoastal United States. She attended the Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Javens is a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Painting Fellow, a Pew Fellowship in the Arts Disciplinary Winner in Painting and a three-time MacDowell Fellow. Her works are held in private and public collections including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Museum, Palmer Museum of Art at the Pennsylvania State University, Telfair Museum of Art, the Blanden Art Museum and the Connecticut College Print Collection. A monograph, *Kate Javens, American Beasts*, was published by the Blanden Museum and distributed by D.A.P., 2008. Kate Javens lives and works in New York City.

Reverend Linnette C. Williamson led the Christ Community Church of Harlem on 128th St. for decades. One of her many accomplishments was convincing the City of New York to give city park status to the abandoned lot next to her church. In 1965, this small piece of land sparked a revolution in the use of urban space, becoming the first "vest-pocket" park in New York City.

The Park Association's all-volunteer membership continues to steward this historic space, and it now includes four properties, urban farming, caring for open green space, and supporting a shelter for families who have been victims of domestic violence. We also raise money to aid in the upgrade of libraries in our neighborhood schools, and continue to support the charitable work of the Rev's original Christ Community Church Harlem.



Stan H., 2024, oil on canvas, 60 x 48 inches



Regina H., 2024. oil on canvas, 60 x 48 inches



Luisa M., 2024, oil on canvas, 60 x 48 inches

For press inquiries, please contact:
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404-827-0030

Gallery Hours. Tuesday - Friday 11:00 - 5:00 pm Saturday 12:00 - 5:00 pm

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