



## *Hope Dreams*

Curated by Alexander Deschamps

Dan Lucal, Joe Nanashe, Lillian Meisner, Alexander Deschamps

On View December 11, 2015 – January 10, 2016

Opening Reception December 11, 2015 7 – 9 PM

Friday – Sunday, 1 – 6 pm

Or by Appointment

Fresh Window Gallery is pleased to present *Hope Dreams*, a group show curated by artist Alexander Deschamps. This show aims to speak to the position of the American presidency, and to the celebrity and fascination that comes with it. It is an attempt to unravel and examine our tendency to imbue in our leaders all of our hopes, dreams, fears, and even dysfunctions. It is an a-political view of our quintessential American politics, with a focus on the individual charisma of our elected officials, past and present, and how they affect the esteem, not the politics, of our people.

The title of the show is a riff on the classic 1994 longitudinal documentary “Hoop Dreams” by Steve James. In “Hoop Dreams” we follow two young Chicago boys as they try to build a basketball life, with the promise of playing in the NBA as the final reward. Ultimately, they both end their careers in college, with no professional hoops in their future. The documentary pivots on the question of deflated dreams. Can we rely on the all powerful force of the NBA to draw us out of despair and poverty? Can we rely on POTUS for the same? Who are the objects of american idolatry? And Why? *Hope Dreams* asks more questions than it answers.



### **About the Art and Artists:**

Dan Lucal, a Brooklyn based artist, contributes a short, stop-motion video of a ball of spaghetti on a bender that decides to mail itself to the White House.

Joe Nanashe, based in Brooklyn as well, also contributes a video, an artist made edit of a 2004 debate. George W. Bush and John Kerry side by side, waiting for the chance to speak, as they take notes and react to what the others are saying. There is beauty in the chuckles, glimmers, and murmurs of their semi-silent reactions to one and other, with the actual substance of the debate removed. Nanashe also contributes a painting, though a couple years old, 'Cocksure' is a prescient understanding of certain campaign stylings we've seen this election cycle.

Lilian Meisner (1923-2004) was a pioneering female political cartoonist. She started her career in Illinois, contributing to the Chicago Tribune, then in Connecticut for the Trumbull Times and finally in Indiana as a weekly contributor to the South Bend Tribune. She was the first woman admitted to membership in the American Association of Editorial Cartoonists. At a time when a woman is on the precipice of our highest elected position, Meisner's cartoon's of Nixon, and his fall from grace, are a perfect fit for this show.

Lastly, Brooklyn based artist and curator Alexander Deschamps has contributed two pieces. One is a sculpture, an origami fortune teller made out of a presidential placemat. The other is a mixed media piece, a deflated basketball with Obama's face on it, sitting idly under a golden hoop that is too small for it to pass through.