

The Reliquary Room & Other Scenes from Detroit

Scott Hocking

Jul.11 - Aug. 10, 2024

Opening Event Thursday July 11th, 5-8pm

168 Suffolk St.

New York, NY 10002

www.trotterandsholer.com

Wednesday to Saturday: 12:00 - 6:00pm

Monday and Tuesday by appointment



Trotter&Sholer is pleased to present *The Reliquary Room & Other Scenes from Detroit*, a site-specific exhibition by **Scott Hocking** (b. 1975), opening July 11th. Curated by Detroit-based arts professional **Samara Johnson Furlong**, the exhibition utilizes found objects, mixed-media sculptures, and site-specific photography to chronicle the layered histories of Detroit, an archetypal American city. Hocking explores themes of archaeology, obsolescence, and the recontextualization of wasted materials into objects of beauty and art.

Hocking's approach to both material and site are central to his practice. His work explores the endless transmutation of urban America. A sixth-generation Detroiter, Hocking was born in Redford Township, a small working-class neighborhood along the Northwest border of Detroit. He spent much of his childhood immersed in the railways, junkyards, and industrial roots of the city. His practice can be read as a dialogue with this industrial history and forlorn landscape, characterized by collection, research, and revitalization of neglected spaces. His elevation of discarded objects and abandoned sites to high art is an act of remembrance and recognition.

The Reliquary Room & Other Scenes from Detroit offers New York visitors a peephole into the Detroit arts landscape, while also engaging in a larger conversation about decay, atrophy, and reconstruction in America. The exhibition is rooted in a large-scale installation that brings together wooden boxes, mixed media, and thousands of eroded man-made objects, gathered throughout Detroit over the past twenty-five years. For this incarnation of *RELICS* at Trotter&Sholer, Hocking will utilize over one-hundred individual boxes to create an immersive floor-to-ceiling grid-like reliquary.

Beginning as a four-hundred box collaboration with Detroit artist Clinton Snider, the original *RELICS* installation was created for the City of Detroit's Tricentennial at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and has since been reconfigured site-specifically dozens of times in museums and galleries worldwide, including exhibitions at the Kunsthalle Wien and Hocking's mid-career retrospective at the Cranbrook Art Museum. Based on ideas of scientific taxonomy, archeology, wunderkammers, and the talismanic qualities of ancient artifacts, the installation imagines natural history museums of the future, and plays off of how quickly objects from our time become obsolete. The works become portals, calling back to past lives and iterations of the contained objects, but also looking into the future in which these boxes serve as their own historical records.

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Thousands of *RELICS* boxes have been created over the years, and the work continues to evolve and adapt to each new installation site; the body of work reorganizes and reconstructs itself not unlike the spaces Hocking explores. The exhibition at Trotter&Sholer marks the first time the *RELICS* installation will be shown in New York, and Hocking's first solo exhibition in New York City. Hocking, however, is no stranger to New York. His work appeared in *Another Look at Detroit*, exhibited by Marlborough and Marianne Boesky Gallery in 2014. Hocking was also a 2008 nominee for the New Museum's Altoids Award for Emerging Art in America, and he was awarded a 5-year fellowship from the NYC-based Joan Mitchell Foundation in 2022.

Alongside his *RELICS*, Hocking's will present photographs from his site-specific installations and photography projects, and cast-bronze sculptures from his *Citadels* series (2022-2023); works exploring Hocking's characteristic themes of transformation, ephemerality, chance, the cycles of nature, and patterns of human behavior through time. Photographic prints will feature his site-specific Detroit projects *The Egg & Michigan Central Train Station* (2012), *Ziggurat and Fisher Body 21* (2008) and *Bone Black* (2019).

"The work in this exhibition highlights my site-specific projects over more than two decades, and my long-standing interest in creating works that utilize wasted materials and spaces," said Scott Hocking. "I choose to recycle and transform both the objects and sites in an attempt to change or shake up a viewer's preconceived ideas and perceptions."

The Reliquary Room & Other Scenes from Detroit, will be on view at 168 Suffolk Street through August 10th, 2024.

ABOUT THE ARTIST SCOTT HOCKING

Scott Hocking, was born in Redford Township, Michigan in 1975 and has lived and worked in Detroit since 1996. A sixth-generation Detroiter, he descended from a long line of Polish immigrants and Cornish copper miners who settled in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Hocking creates site-specific installations, sculptures and photography projects, often using found materials and neglected locations. Inspired by subjects ranging from ancient mythologies to current events, his artworks focus on transformation, ephemerality, chance, the cycles of nature, and patterns of human behavior through time. Hocking's work has been widely exhibited nationally and internationally, including Cranbrook Art Museum, the Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts Museum, The Mattress Factory Museum, the Van Abbemuseum, Kunst-Werke Institute, Kunsthalle Wien and the Gare St Sauveur of Lille, France.

ABOUT THE CURATOR SAMARA JOHNSON FURLONG

Hailing from Detroit, Samara Johnson Furlong brings a wealth of experience, a profound love for art, and an unwavering commitment to nurturing emerging artists to various curatorial and non-profit ventures. With an extensive background at prestigious institutions and a dedication to innovative and forward-thinking programming, community engagement, and a childhood spent exploring the museums of Detroit and around the world, Samara Furlong intertwines her love for the arts with her range of experience in research, curatorial work, and board leadership. Her tenure at establishments like Detroit Institute of Arts, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Dia Art Foundation, and David Zwirner solidifies her position as a prominent figure in Detroit's art scene and beyond. Now, through Buffalo Prescott, she continues to bring a global perspective to the city while offering a strong community for emerging artists, propelling them into the next phases of their careers.

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