



FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE



**City of New York
Parks & Recreation**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
HIGH LINE ART**

**FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE PRESENTS
FRANCIS CAPE
*THE OTHER END OF THE LINE***

**A MAJOR PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION FEATURING A PREVIOUSLY LIVED-IN
RESIDENTIAL TRAILER CONTAINING WORKS BY UPSTATE NEW YORK ARTISTS**

**ON VIEW OCTOBER 22 – NOVEMBER 21, 2010
UNDER THE HIGH LINE ON THE GANSEVOORT PLAZA
AT THE CORNER OF GANSEVOORT AND WASHINGTON STREETS**

**OPENING RECEPTION FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2010, 6:30 – 8:30 PM,
WITH A TALK BY THE ARTIST AT 7:30 PM**



Photo by Francis Cape

New York, NY (September 22, 2010) – Friends of the High Line will debut Francis Cape's *The Other End of the Line*, a major public art installation in the form of a previously occupied residential trailer installed on the Gansevoort Plaza, located at the northwest corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets, on Friday, October 22, 2010. Cape will transform the trailer, which was previously occupied in Sullivan County, NY, into a public exhibition space featuring artworks by upstate New York artists.

This is the first public art installation in New York City for Cape, who also hails from upstate New York. He took inspiration from the High Line's history as a freight train conduit that once transported raw materials and manufactured goods between upstate New York and New York City. Working with guest curator Ian Berry, Curator of the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, Cape's selected artists and their works focus on themes of locality and transience.

Trained as a carpenter and fine wood worker, Francis Cape previously focused on meticulous wood constructions that emphasized clean lines, minimalist beauty, and sound craftsmanship. The focus of his artwork took a dramatic shift following a visit to New Orleans in 2005, just two months after Hurricane Katrina. After witnessing the destruction of lives, buildings, and an entire city's infrastructure, the artist turned to a combination of photography and construction, and began exploring themes of rescue and recovery efforts, social neglect, and design for living.

Cape's use of a trailer home for *The Other End of the Line* is intended to question transience, permanence, and mobility, as well as how and where people live, and how and where art is shown. Also at play in the work are certain assumptions about upstate New York, New York City, and their relationship, for example, the idea that upstate is the predetermined realm of agricultural production, while downstate is the cultural center.

"Francis Cape's work explores how structures for living influence and reflect a variety of social and economic conditions. He engages with the ways that trailer design suggests transience and mobility, and yet they are often used like houses -- stationary and fixed," said Lauren Ross, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Curator and Director of Arts Programs at Friends of the High Line. "The title, *The Other End of the Line*, is open to interpretation. It might suggest the terminal destination on a journey, or a view onto the various ways in which people live in our state."

The interior of the trailer will house a group exhibition of works in a wide range of mediums by artists based in upstate New York, including Michael Ashkin, Kenji Fujita, Richard Garrison, DeWitt Godfrey, Matt Harle, Chris Harvey, Margo Mensing, Rebecca Murtaugh, Michael Oatman, Gina Occhiogrosso, Ken Ragsdale, Nancy Shaver, and Alfonso Volo. In his selections, guest curator Ian Berry was not only concerned with finding artists who live outside the urban areas, but those whose work captures the particular conditions of life in upstate New York.

"These artists use everyday things like shopping circulars, parking lots, targets from shooting ranges, prison architecture, and outmoded industries as sources. This range of eccentric sources can together form a strange picture of what might be found looking out the windows of this trailer home," said guest curator Ian Berry. "Our choices are focused on works that reference the built environment that surrounds them - not so much the natural environment sometimes thought of when imagining upstate vistas. The details of the cities and towns that these artists call home are much more varied than the utopian countryside pictured in 19th century paintings - it is a place filled with potent details of a more modern history. A history told through economic and political shifts, with long family histories and breaks with tradition. All the works reveal a creative re-forming of regional materials to tell decidedly unique stories."

As part of the opening reception, Francis Cape will give a public talk about *The Other End of the Line* and the trajectory of his artwork. The talk is presented by Friends of the High Line as part of its series of free

and low-cost public programs for visitors of all ages. The talk will take place in the 14th Street Passage on the High Line, at 7:30 PM on Friday, October 22, 2010.

The Other End of the Line is the latest exhibit in High Line Art, a program by Friends of the High Line that commissions innovative, temporary artworks that provide park visitors with a unique, enriching experience and introduce contemporary artists to a wide audience. More than three million visitors have come to the High Line since it opened in June 2009. Other artworks currently on view include pieces by Spencer Finch, Richard Galpin, Valerie Hegarty, and Stephen Vitiello. As part of its fall 2010 season, Friends of the High Line also presents Demetrius Oliver's *Jupiter* (September 7-October 6, 2010), and Kim Beck's *Space Available*, which will open later in the fall.

About the Artist

Francis Cape has had solo exhibitions at Murray Guy Gallery, New York; Grimm Rosenfeld, Munich; and the Saint Louis Art Museum, among others. His work has been included in many group exhibitions including *Prospect 1: New Orleans; Nothing Compared to this*, at the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center; and the *Paper Sculpture Show*, organized by Independent Curators International. Cape is the recipient of the Biennial Award from The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation. His work has been profiled and reviewed in such publications as *The New York Times*, *Village Voice*, *Art in America*, and *Art on Paper*. Cape divides his time between Manhattan and Sullivan County, New York. This is his first public artwork in New York City.

About Friends of the High Line

Friends of the High Line is the non-profit conservancy working to build and maintain an extraordinary public park on the High Line. The organization raises the essential private funds to support more than 70 percent of the High Line's annual operating budget and oversees the park's maintenance and operations pursuant to a licensing agreement with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

Support

This High Line Art Commission is presented by Friends of the High Line and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. High Line Art Commissions are made possible by Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Additional support for *The Other End of the Line* has been provided by The Greenwall Foundation. High Line Art is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and from the New York State Council on the Arts, celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State's 62 counties.

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For more information on Friends of the High Line and High Line Art, visit www.thehighline.org/about/public-art

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