Duane Thomas Gallery is pleased to announce its inaugural exhibition: “Ronald Hall, New Paintings” opening online on September 23, 2020.

Working from digital sketches, Ronald Hall (born 1967 in Pittsburgh) finds inspiration in archival images ranging from nineteenth century historical paintings to photographs of the civil rights movement. His work confronts issues of race in America, the legacy of the African diaspora, and bears witness to African American experiences.

The first work entering the exhibition, a piece titled “Brothers In Arms” revisits a nineteenth century French painting by François-Auguste Biard (Proclamation of the Abolition of Slavery in the French Colonies). Hall appropriates the work and extensively samples from his rich archive: adding in figures of civil rights activists protesting the segregationist policies of George Wallace.
in the 60s, and propping in ominous landmarks such as the John Wright house that saw a brutal 1923 mob killing in Florida.

The idea of time travel as well as references to contemporary political issues permeate the works. In “Black Molasses” a plantation home and a Winnowing barn commonly found on rice farms in the segregated South confront a contemporary urban environment where a man wearing an apron serves up a brown sugary mixture. In another work drawn from personal memories “The Witness,” issues of domestic violence challenge our perception of a narrative in a painted work by witnessing a scene that is both personal and filled with political urgency.

This exhibition is Ronald Hall’s first solo exhibition in nearly two years and marks a decisive breakthrough in his approach to combine digital imaging and traditional painting techniques. Using software-controlled methods to mix colors, hand woven linens and working exclusively on large formats, the four works presented epitomize the artist’s life ambition to expose the vastness and the complexity of his personal reading of American History.
This exhibition will remain at our Tribeca location throughout the fall season by appointment only. For more information contact:
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Ronald Hall grew up in Pittsburgh where he attended the High School For Creative And Performing Arts, and later studied illustration at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. In 1999 he joined Gallery 110 in Seattle as an artist-member and began exhibiting works at major North Western institutions such as The Tacoma Museum, The Seattle Art Museum and The Wing Luke Asian Museum. In 2005, Ronald Hall was the subject of a solo show from The Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg, PA. In 2014 Ronald Hall moved to Brooklyn for a residency and has since lived and worked in the New York region. He is a recipient of many awards and grants from The Skowhegan School of Painting, The New York Art Residency & Studios Foundation, The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, The Bronx Museum of the Arts AIM Program, The Lillian Orlowsky and William Freed Foundation, and The 2013 Artist Fellowship Award in Seattle.