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Fraunces Tavern Museum Announces *Give Me Liberty*

August 28, 2014 - New York, NY - Fraunces Tavern Museum is pleased to announce “Give Me Liberty,” a solo exhibition of new works by Brooklyn-based artist Sylvanus Shaw. In this site-specific exhibition, Shaw invokes imagery of early American statehood in media ranging from oil on panel to collaged holograms, security envelopes, and other mediums. *Give Me Liberty* will be on view from September 10, 2014 through March 16, 2015.

Challenged by the contextual significance of exhibiting in Manhattan’s oldest surviving structure, a space which figures prominently in the Revolutionary era history and now serves as a monument to American history, Shaw engages with the Museum’s permanent collection by taking liberties with the stock images of the Revolution, reanimating and re-envisioning them through a twenty-first century lens.

Many of the featured works continue Shaw’s series of security envelope collages. Adopting the envelopes as an artistic medium, Shaw engages both their ascribed function as security devices—dividing interior from exterior, public from private—as well as the envelope’s status as a nearly bygone technology, an analog buffer in world of digital encryption.

“Shaw’s work brings unique imagery to the historic house museum audience. The visually captivating pieces allow viewers a special perspective to today’s remembrance of our nation’s founding years.” says Jessica Baldwin Phillips, Museum Executive Director.

Sylvanus Shaw

Sylvanus Shaw (b. 1979, Houston, TX) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. His work has been shown at the Salon Art + Design Fair, International Fine Arts and Antiques Dealers Show, International Art & Design Fair, and the National Arts Club. He was an H. W. Jansen Scholar in art history at New York University where he received his B.A. with honors in Fine Arts. He is a Pushcart Prize nominated author whose writings have appeared in *Zingmagazine*, *SpringGun*, *Lilies and Cannonball Review*, and *Aufgabe*. In addition to his visual work, Shaw is working on a collection of design furniture which will be released in the spring of 2015. www.sylvanussylvania.com

Fraunces Tavern Museum

Fraunces Tavern Museum, opened in 1907 by the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, Inc., is the only New York City museum that exclusively focuses on the American Revolution.

Located in Lower Manhattan, the Museum is a 5 building complex containing nine galleries, including the famous Long Room where George Washington bade farewell to the officers of the Continental Army on December 4, 1783.

The Museum houses over 3,000 Colonial America, Revolutionary War, and Early Republic artifacts, including a lock of George Washington’s hair. The Museum was landmarked in 1965, marked as a historic district in 1978, and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

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