

# Theodore

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## LEGACY

An exhibition in three parts

Part II

Michelle Vaughan  
*Degenerate Histories*

April 13 - 29

*Viewing - April 13, 6-8 pm*



Part I - Elissa Levy - *Lock Her Up*  
March 23 - April 8

Part II - Michelle Vaughan - *Degenerate Histories*  
April 13-29

Part III - Billy Jacobs - *Identity Politics*  
May 4-20

Gallery hours Thursday-Saturday 12-6 pm  
Door/Elevator buzzer #610

Theodore is pleased to present Legacy, an exhibition in three parts. Each segment is a solo presentation by the artist of work that examines and mediates unsavory aspects of each artist's family history. Every family has legends, scoundrels, heroes, villains, madmen, martyrs. This show offers a view of how each artist is reconciling the skeletons in the family closet.

Vaughan's oeuvre investigates topics such as power, politics and history, with every possible ramification and aspect brought into play in aesthetic form. Vaughan peers through the lens of "important" and lesser works of art to examine deep topical issues that connect art to uncovered histories.

In this new series of photographs, Vaughan explores the artifacts of what is left behind. She has written an essay that accompanies this exhibition, which is really just the start of years of research and development of artwork manifesting the histories uncovered.

Researching powerful legacies of notorious subjects is a familiar part of my art practice. But for the last two years, I have turned the lens to my own family and discovered some deeply uncomfortable truths.

My grandfather David was born in the annex of his parent's hotel on Broad Street in Selma in 1891, after many decades during which the Vaughans had amassed their wealth and power as land owners.

Before my grandfather, the Vaughans were educated doctors, lawyers, planters,— and, unsurprisingly, slave owners.

Vaughan grapples with the expansive damage done to families and communities by the system of slavery, and exposes her family's story in the role they played in American history.

Michelle Vaughan received her BFA at UCLA. Her art practice focuses on political or historical subjects. She examines topics and then deconstructs and reinterprets the material through work in a variety of media — drawing, installation, letterpress printing, among others. Vaughan has had solo shows at Dumbo Art Center and the South Street Seaport, where she was awarded fiscal sponsorship from the New York Foundation of the Arts for Sea Warriors: A Public Art Project, in 2009. During the summer of 2018, her ongoing project "Generations," a deep dive into the degeneration by inbreeding of the Spanish Habsburgs, was shown in solo exhibitions at Galería Trinta and the Universidade Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Vaughan was born in Anaheim, California and lives in New York City.

Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, the artist requests that no pictures be taken of the exhibition. Images for press available upon request.

For more information please contact the gallery at [theodoreart@gmail.com](mailto:theodoreart@gmail.com).