

What to See in NYC: September Gallery Guide

Jonathan Lyndon Chase, *his beard is soft, my hands are empty*
Artists Space, September 8 - December 2



Jonathan Lyndon Chase, 'City of Beauty', 2023.
Photo : Courtesy of the artist and Company Gallery, New York.

Jonathan Lyndon Chase finds power in domestic spaces. For their first solo institutional exhibition in New York, Chase transforms Artists Space into a world of their own, a fusion of memory and fantasy. Chase's work is an ode to their Black queer community and the places where they feel safe: the living room, a barber shop, a laundromat, and the bedroom.

An impressive number of soft sculptures, large-scale paintings, drawings, videos, and poetry fill the entire ground floor (old and new). In "Reclining Waves" (2023), two men sit intertwined, cast in a hot pink and orange glow; one holds his lover's head in his lap as he brushes his hair. Throughout the exhibition, subjects' bodies overlap with each other, collapse into each other in tender caresses, and stretch out comfortably within their rooms. In "Pubes, Stretch Marks, Blue Fitted" (2023), a bright red background frames a nude man in a backwards blue cap who is nestled onto a black, throne-like sofa chair; red nail polish, his toes dangle above the ground. A black leather couch faces a table with a figurative sculpture of a nude body as its foundation: "Homie" (2023) is made of, among other things, a "hood chain, nail polish, and glass." The exhibition offers a sprawling entry point into Chase's interior world.