



# #FFFHEX

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**ATLANTEAN FRESCOES**

#FFFHEX is pleased to announce *Atlantean Frescoes*, an exhibition of paintings by Travis Iurato. An opening reception will be held Saturday, November 26 from 6–8 P.M. The exhibition will be on view through December 17 and can be viewed Saturdays 1–6 P.M. and by appointment.

Atlantean Frescoes is a new body of work inspired by Iurato's 2014 visit to Bavon, VA. The artist reflects on the water and marine motifs while imagining the frescoed walls that would decorate the mythical lost city of Atlantis. Iurato seeks to "touch people in a deep place, to stir them with ancient feelings" and simultaneously "excite them with something new." His series of slab-like patterned paintings in ink echo preserved artifacts while speaking to life by the water in the 21st century.

Travis Iurato (born 1985, Tucson) lives and works in Flagstaff, AZ where he is the Artistic Director of the Flagstaff Arts Council and co-directs curatorial project New Age Drinks. He received his BFA from The Cooper Union in New York in 2009. Iurato currently has an exhibition *100 Dibujos de 100 Cosas* at the Museum of Northern Arizona and has also shown his work at venues including Satellite Contemporary (Las Vegas), Studio DTFU (Dallas), Ferro-Strouse Gallery (Miami) and Recession Art (Brooklyn).

*Statement from the artist:*

The works all started with a can of "French Lilac" colored spray paint. I emptied the can on to as many pieces of newsprint as possible. Right around that time, you and Justin proposed a show. I was just getting underway with painting the papers and thought about showing a different series that I had taken a break on, the Excavations. But as I started working on the frescoes every day, with brush and ink and a few other colors, I was thinking about the water, the beach, and connecting it to Bavon, our time there, the moonlight, the surf, the patterns in water, in beach forms, in sea life. The lilac really resonated this watery spirit. It became an exploration of marine motifs in pattern and form, and I was thinking about the Atlantic Ocean, and then the lost city of Atlantis. Allison and I watched "Journey to the Center of the Earth," the movie based on the Jules Verne novel, and at the end they find Atlantis, it's miles underground and the set designers painted designs on the wall and had artifacts strewn about. I was thinking about frescoes that may have been painted by the people of Atlantis, that would have lined their walls and rooms, and corridors. Obviously people living near or on water would have a profound feeling for water, and it would enter the imagery of their art. Dolphins, octopi, ripples, waves, sea snakes, shells, spirals, and so on. I think it was the lilac that really got me thinking along those lines, conjuring those images. Such a calming, cool, quiet color. Feels like deep water, moonlight on water, salty breeze. And of course, being so close to the bay, I felt that people who would come and see the paintings would have a real resonance with them. The Atlanteans, an ancient mythical people, hitting them in the soul. Art we've never seen before. Imagining what their lives would have been like, how they would express themselves. The whole goal is to touch people in a deep place, to stir them with ancient feelings. But excite them with something new. If you really wanted to know what an Atlantean fresco would look like, you have it in yourself already, you just have to look for it. And so, they're mounted on canvas just to make them feel more substantial, like a slab or something. Like it's been mounted and preserved. A way of presenting them as if it had been removed from a wall and made to travel and be exhibited. It's a whole lot of make believe, but the feelings are real, and the resonances are real too.