

savagewonderground

Brent Owens
Fancy Feast

April 11 – August 14, 2026
Opening Hours: Tuesday - Friday

Savage Wonderground Tribeca is pleased to announce Fancy Feast. Curated by Jeannie Freilich, Brent Owens first solo show with Savage Wonderground explores food as a medium for critiquing culture, class, and social mores. Inspired by the “gourmet” branding of the cat food line introduced in 1992, Owens utilizes subtle cynicism and meticulously crafted wooden sculptures to examine the complexities of modern societal standards.

Working primarily with wood, both carved and painted, Owens has developed a distinct visual language that blends woodworking with painting into a singular practice. Based in Marbletown, NY, Owens draws from his environment, incorporating foraged wood from his own landscape. Materiality is fundamental to Owens craft as he plays with the concept of illusion between material and perception. Works resembling towels and rugs appear soft but are in fact rigid, roughly textured wooden sculptures. He deliberately disorients the viewer by using an unexpected medium that subverts familiarity and function.

Among the exhibition’s most commanding works are his notorious “neon” signs. Carved entirely from wood with an electrical cord attached, they visually appear utilitarian but are devoid of function, unable to be illuminated. Located in the gallery’s front window, “Fancy Feast” first introduces not only the exhibition title but, more importantly, the conceptual foundation of Owens’ practice. In Fancy Feast, bright red wooden letters spell out the namesake of the exhibition without illumination, while the dangling electric cord serves as a punchline: a reminder of neon’s context and of where the work deliberately “falls short” of its true luminous magic. The exhibition is an investigation into how representation translates to meaning through the unstable relationship between medium and function.

The exhibition’s centerpiece is a 24-foot banquet table, amassed with “faux victuals,” including oversized blueberries and oysters, a massive burning marshmallow, and a seven-foot deli

sandwich. The exaggerated expression of food reflects on abundance, consumption, and privilege in contemporary American society. The satirical sculptures act as a metaphor regarding questions of access and inequality, asking "who gets a seat at the table?"
Owens consistently reevaluates how ordinary objects are perceived and understood. Through comically dysfunctional wall sculptures, absurd depictions of food, and deceptive material, the exhibition reflects on the spectacle that is American consumerism.

About the Artist
Brent Owens lives and works in Marbletown, NY. The sibling of a Marine Corps veteran, Brent's artwork is conceived as an "Anthropocene Blues"—a simultaneous lament and embrace of humanity's relationship with the natural world. After obtaining a BFA in Sculpture from Winthrop University, Owens spent nearly two decades in New York City working in the studios of artists such as Tom Sachs, Piotr Uklanski, and Ursula von Rydingsvard. Owens' work has been exhibited widely both domestically and internationally. In 2023, he was awarded the National Academy of Design's Affiliated Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome.

About Savage Wonder
Founded in 2021 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Savage Wonder is a multidisciplinary arts organization based in Beacon, NY, with a contemporary art gallery in Tribeca, NYC. Dedicated to artists forged in military and first responder service, Savage Wonder's mission is to advance American performing and visual arts by developing and producing exceptional multidisciplinary work by veterans, first responders, and their immediate family members. Its vision is to reimagine the live arts experience, frequently uniting performance, visual art, and hospitality into a singular live encounter rooted in the absurd.

Sales Inquiries
Jayne Johnson
jaynej@savagewonder.org

Luca Labanca
lucal@savagewonder.org

Other Inquiries
Haley Watson
haleyw@savagewonder.org

Savage Wonderground Tribeca
89 Franklin Street, New York, NY 10013

Savage Wonderground Beacon
141 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508