

OLIVER WASOW HUDSON VALLEY STUDIO PORTRAITS

Oliver Wasow's portraits follow in a long tradition of prop and backdrop studio photography that stretches from Nineteenth century Carte de Visites to contemporary family and yearbook portraiture. By utilizing green screens and extensive post-production processes, his work extends this practice into the digital sphere, calling attention to the artifice inherent to posed studio photography, and remind us that photography

has always had—and continues to have—a strong tie to the world of painting and constructed realities. While Wasow's subjects seem to be in dialog with their romantic backgrounds, they are never quite settled into them. The people occupy a space in a kind of parallel world where they are complemented, emotionally, by the backdrop, while at the same time maintaining a removed and cool distance.

Of these photos, Wasow has said: *They are both romantic and sincere, though not necessarily comfortably so. There's idealism in the romantic impulse, but in truth, our lives rarely live up to that degree of beauty. These pictures to speak the space between the lives we live, and the lives we desire—offering the possibility, that perhaps, that a gap photography can help bridge.*

This exhibition is curated by Jane Hart.

