

GREATER NEW YORK

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

A22 | Thursday, May 17, 2012



Stan Gaz

Stan Gaz's 'Ensnared' series, on display at CLAMPART gallery, manipulates photographs of people in astronaut suits taken in Central Park.

Brooklyn Artist Mingles The Hunter and Hunted

Brooklyn-based artist Stan Gaz's photographs often involve expeditions to such locations as Africa, Australia and the Arctic Circle, sometimes with his 20-pound medium-format camera dangling out of an open-sided helicopter.

His recent images and videos, showing an astronaut (actually, a dancer donned the suit) chasing butterflies with a large net, involved a much shorter trip—to Strawberry Fields in Central Park. Near the end of the shoot, Mr. Gaz and crew were discovered by a class of schoolchildren on a field trip who wanted to know if they were embarking on a trip to outer space.

Where Mr. Gaz's well-known earlier work comprised large-format aerial photographs of meteorite craters, many of his new pieces expand the photographic form with superimposed images of butterflies or hunters and occasional splotches of paint. Though different in format, they continue his exploration of cosmic forces.

"This is the first time I've

ever used oil paint and objects on the surface of the images," he said. "I was playing with the idea of memory and how it changes over time. Adding objects was a way to get closer to the images."

Mr. Gaz's latest work will be presented in "Ensnared," a multimedia exhibition of sculpture, video and photographs opening Friday at CLAMPART gallery in Chelsea. As the title suggests, "Ensnared" also explores the roles of the hunter and the hunted. Mr. Gaz writes that the two can seem interchangeable, "caught up in a cycle in which each is trapped by the other—where neither is ever free of the other's influence, but nevertheless transformation still takes place."

He also draws a parallel between the fatal desires of the collector who kills what he loves most. "A lot of the work," he said, "was inspired by some painful separations."

"Ensnared" runs through June 23.

—Rebecca Horne