



## Postcard From Paris – Jonathan Monaghan's Gotham

By Matthew Rose



Jonathan Monaghan, the New York-based artist, exhibited his series of digital collages that mix Manhattan architecture with 5th Avenue luxury sofas, divans, and love seats in a questioning survey of our cities and sense of reality. At his exhibition at the beautiful gallery 22,48 m<sup>2</sup> in Paris, Monaghan seeks to literally open a window on the myth of our cities, the notion of luxury and the dreamscape of our fantasy, echoing the sense of longing and mystery Italo Calvino speaks of in his *Invisible Cities*.

"Cities like dreams are made of desires and fears, even if the thread of their discourse is secret, their rules absurd, their perspectives deceitful; and everything hides something else," wrote Calvino.

So: What better city to examine urban architecture than in Paris? Monaghan's *Gotham* brings together more than a dozen works on paper video in beautiful surreal, fragmented narratives. Imagine a 5 star hotel lobby turned upside with the guests admiring the stunning chandeliers, the luxurious seating and inhaling the purified air conditioned sense of the future. Monaghan's world awaits.

*Gotham*: 16 September–29 October, 2016, at GALERIE 22,48 m<sup>2</sup> 30, rue des Envierges 75020, Paris.

Matthew Rose is an artist and writer based in Paris. See Matthew's Instagram feed [here](#).

Editor's note: Roberta has written about Jonathan's work on Artblog, when he showed his work at Vox Populi in 2009.