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PULSE; Brush Strokes Slanted Southwest

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THE legendary skateboarder and prolific artist Mark Gonzales paints the way he skates -- exuberantly, on whatever surface he can find: canvas, construction paper, sawed-off skateboards, a bowler hat that his girlfriend, the fashion stylist Heathermary Jackson, gave him. "I didn't want to wear it until I painted it," said Mr. Gonzales, whose array of work is now on view at Half Gallery on the Lower East Side.

Entitled "South West," the show, which nearly sold out on opening night, is inspired by Navajo rugs. ("I just like them," he explained, helpfully.) Their vivid patterns find their way into most of the pieces. A painting of Michael Jackson (left), done after the pop star's death, features burnt orange zigzags across his face. Farrah Fawcett, as Mr. Gonzales pointed out, already had a Southwest moment: "That famous photo of her in the red swimsuit? She's sitting in front of a Navajo rug."

"South West" runs through Aug. 2 at Half Gallery, 208 Forsyth Street (between Houston and Stanton Streets); halfgallery.com.

PHOTOS (PHOTOGRAPHS BY OZIER MUHAMMAD/THE NEW YORK TIMES)