

King Dogs Never Grow Old

Curated by Brooke Wise

January 4 – February 1, 2020

Opening reception: Saturday, January 4, 2020

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Diane Rosenstein Gallery is pleased to announce *King Dogs Never Grow Old*, a group exhibition curated by Brooke Wise. The show will include paintings, sculpture, ceramics, works on paper, and tufted wall hangings by Ginny Casey, Sam Crow, Tom of Finland, Haley Josephs, Jillian Mayer, Haley Mellin, Robert Moreland, Rose Nestler, Scott Reeder, Matthew Sweesy, Chris Wolston and Bri Williams. The show's title is borrowed from André Breton and Philippe Soupault's surrealist text *Les Champs Magnétiques (The Magnetic Fields)*. It alludes to exploring the nonsensical and the dreamlike unconscious. The work on view will share a common dialogue and aim to explore these surrealist notions in a contemporary manner.

Jillian Mayer and Haley Josephs use color and whimsy to address these surrealist concepts. Mayer's interactive *Slumpies* invite the viewer to sprawl out and engage with their smart phones while laying on "deformed rock[s], repeatedly vandalized with paint." Josephs employs bright and fantastical elements in her paintings, suggesting a world that may never be realized. Ginny Casey draws inspiration from classic Walt Disney cartoons and welcomes the spectator with distorted, absurd and disproportioned objects, which play with our restrictions of logic and time.

Exploring anatomical surrealism, Tom of Finland celebrates sexuality, fantasy, and the body in all areas of human endeavor. Scott Reeder and Matthew Sweesy both use comedy and rhetoric in their paintings. Reeder, known for his ceramic work and text-based paintings, represents everyday objects, reimagined as fine art. Paintings that exist as mundane and hand drawn lists allow the unconscious to express itself in a permanent state. Sweesy, who paints dreamlike sequences, uses humor to promote cultural critique, as seen in *The Hunter*, where the artist himself is seen as both the hunter and the hunted.

Chris Wolston's *Nalgona* chairs are humanized by his addition of wicker body parts. Sam Crow's tufted wall works skew our sense of reality and attempt to destroy our sense of stability in her usage of geometric shapes and dimension. Rose Nestler's soft sculptures explore the body as the subconscious mind. Her unsettling and dreamlike sculptures are informed by the notion of shame, the classic childhood fears of showing up to class naked or menstruating through one's pants. Bri Williams uses found objects with deeply personal associations to evoke dark and repressed feelings. Her work explores emotional states, the past and the future.

Minimalist artist Robert Moreland reinvents his canvas into the space between painting and sculpture, while Haley Mellin's small paintings reinvent mundane objects such as a Warholian banana floating in space. Through comedy, rhetoric, sarcasm and the uncanny, these works all share a common discourse about surrealism, the unexpected and the unconventional.

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Brooke Wise is an independent curator based in Los Angeles, CA and New York, NY. Originally from Montreal, QC, Wise curates for galleries internationally and produces a yearly film festival called *Aloha from Hell*. Recent projects include, *Aloha From Hell 3* (partnered with Comedy Central and Sexy Beast for Planned Parenthood), Vista Theatre, Los Angeles, CA (2019), *A Cat's Meow*, Shrine and Sargent's Daughters, NYC (2019), and *George Rouy: Smothered Awake*, Steve Turner Gallery, Los Angeles (2018).

Ginny Casey (USA, b. 1981) received her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. Casey has received solo shows at Half Gallery, NYC (2018) and Nino Mier, Los Angeles (2017). Recent group exhibitions include *Domestic Horror* (curated by Bill Powers), Gagolian, NYC (2019), *Early 21st Century Art* (Organized by Bill Powers), Almine Rech Gallery, London, UK (2018), and *SEED* (Curated by Yvonne Force), Paul Kasmin Gallery, NYC (2018). Casey lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Sam Crow (USA, b. 1991) received her BS in Fashion Design from DAAP at the University of Cincinnati, OH (2014) and her Certificate of Haute Embroidery from Maison Lesage, Paris, France (2013). Crow has a permanent installation in *The Smile*, New York, NY (2018), and recent shows include *Sounds*, Brooklyn, NY (2019), *A Cat's Meow*, Sargent's Daughters, NYC (2019) and *Possible Worlds*, YARŌ Collective, London, UK, (2018).

Tom of Finland (FIN, 1920 – 1991) is widely regarded as one of the most influential artists of the 20th century for his representation and portrayals of the male figure. Tom gave form to an imaginative universe that in turn helped fuel real-world liberation movements and enabled gay men to access their strength in new ways. Recent exhibitions include *The Work and Life of Tom of Finland*, Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead, MOCAD, Detroit, MI (2018), *The Foundation of the Museum: MOCA's Collection*, MOCA, Los Angeles (2019) and *Camp: Notes on Fashion*, The Met, NYC (2019).

Haley Josephs (USA, b. 1987) received her MFA from Yale University (2014) and BFA from Tyler School of Art & Architecture at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA (2011). Josephs will be a Residency Artist at The Fountainhead, Miami, FL in January, 2020. Upcoming exhibitions include solo shows at Jack Barrett, NYC (2020) and Fredericks & Freiser, NYC (2020). Recent group shows include *Getting to Know You*, Cleveland Institute of Art, Reinberger Gallery (2019) and *Solo Project*, The Journal Gallery, NYC (2019). She was an artist in residence at The Macedonia Institute, Chatham, NY (2019) and The La Brea Studio Artist Residency, Los Angeles (2018). Haley Josephs lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Jillian Mayer (USA, b. 1984) received a BFA from FIU, Miami, FL (2007). Recent solo exhibitions include *TIMESHARE*, UB Art Gallery, SUNY Buffalo, NY (2019) and *Slumpies: Jillian Mayer*, Kunsthalle Aarhus, DK (2018). Recent group shows include *Mundos Alternos: Art and Science Fiction in the Americas*, Queens Museum, NY (2019), *Paradox: The Body in the Age of A.I.* (Curated by Elizabeth Chodos), Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University (2018), and *Cat Scan, 68 Projects*, Galerie Kornfeld, Berlin (2018). Mayer has participated in the Rotterdam Film Festival (2018), Sundance Film Festival (2017 & 2013) and SXSW Austin, TX (2013). She lives and works in Miami.

Haley Mellin (USA, b. 1983) is a painter and land conservationist. She took her PhD in Visual Culture and Education from NYU Steinhart, New York (2012), and graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Arts and Education (2004). Mellin was the first Dean of the Bruce High Quality Foundation University and resident artist at *Still House* (2013). Recent exhibitions include *Haley Mellin*, Shoulder, Los Angeles, CA (2018), *The Now Forever*, Basilica, Hudson, New York (2015), *The Still House Group*, Testing Ground, The Zabłudowicz Collection, London, UK (2015). Mellin founded *Art to Acres*, a charity that connects artists, philanthropists, and collectors with a permanent impact on wild lands. The artist lives and works in Marin County, CA.

Robert Moreland (USA, b. 1980) is a painter from Louisiana, who now lives and works in Chinatown, Los Angeles. Solo exhibitions include *Deliberation* (2019) and *Slow Talker*, Wilding Cran Gallery, Los Angeles (2018). Recent group exhibitions include *It's All Black & White*, Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2019), *KIAF*, Art Seoul, G. Gallery, Seoul (2019), *Shape, Rattle & Roll*, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, NY (2019), and *Grafik* (Curated by Ryan McGinness), Harper's Books, East Hampton, NY (2018).

Rose Nestler (USA, b. 1983) received her MFA from Brooklyn College, NY (2017) and BA from Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA (2005). Recent exhibitions include *Power Walking* (with Elizabeth Glaessner), Public Gallery, London, UK (2019) and *Grey Matter* (with Corey Escoto), Spring/Break Art Show, New York (2019). She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Scott Reeder (USA, b. 1970) received his MFA from the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago (1998), BFA from the Univ. of Iowa (1994), and Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (1994). Solo shows include *B-Side of the Moon*, Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI (2019) and *Put the Cat on the Phone*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago (2015). Important group shows include *The Moon*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen, Denmark (2018) and *99 Cents or Less*, MOCAD, Detroit, MI (2017). Scott Reeder lives and works in Detroit.

Matthew Sweesy (USA, b. 1974) is a Los Angeles-based artist who works with painting and drawing. He received a BA in English from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA (1997) after attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. Exhibitions include *Nocturnes* (solo), Diane Rosenstein Gallery (2018), *The Seven Year Itch* (group), Diane Rosenstein Gallery (2019), *Sugars of Other Skies* (curated by Annie Wharton), The Shed, Los Angeles, CA (2017); and *Friends, Do Not Fear* (curated by Daniel Gibson), New Image Art, Los Angeles (2017).

Bri Williams (USA, b. 1993) received her MFA from Mills College, Oakland, CA (2017), and attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2015). Williams has upcoming solo shows at *Queer Thoughts*, NYC (2020) and *in lieu*, Los Angeles, CA (2020). Group shows include *Fun Hang*, Karma International, Los Angeles, CA (2019) and *Bare Teeth*, Queer Thoughts, New York, NY, (2018). Williams lives and works in Los Angeles.

Chris Wolston (USA, b. 1990) is a designer and artist based in Brooklyn, NY and Medellin, Columbia. He received his BFA from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI (2009). Recent solo exhibitions include *Forbidden Fruit*, The Future Perfect, Beverly Hills, CA (2019) and *Garden Party*, Patrick Parrish, NYC (2017). Recent group shows include *The Ashtray Show* and *The Paperweight Show*, Fisher Parrish Gallery, Brooklyn, NY (2017).