G.B. Jones and Paul P.
Born Yesterday
November 12 – December 17, 2017
Opening Reception, Sunday, November 12, 7-9pm

Born Yesterday is a project by G.B. Jones and Paul P. Over the past fifteen years, the two artists have collaborated intermittently, primarily making collages from their combined image banks. This exhibition collects these collages with a selection of new drawings by Jones alongside works made over the past decade. To this, P. has added works in watercolor and design that are emblematic of Jones.

Jones and P. are interested in ungovernable sexualities and genders, and in the history of aesthetics forged by those who were compelled to communicate and represent themselves through innuendo and codes. In their collaborative work, as in their individual figurative practices, the subjects Jones and P. reproduce are often symbols of manipulation within a world of manipulation.

Jones’ portraits from 2003-04 are of a cast of young people - teenagers and teenage artists - all protagonists who, by turns of fate pertaining to criminalized sexuality, were ensnared in morbid and often terminal circumstances. These works appear alongside her portentous and precise drawings from 2011-12 depicting the side of a barn, a smoking ashtray, and hard candy; dark iterations of the landscape, still life, and pop art genres, respectively. Jones’ drawings from 2016, rendered in a looser intuitive manner, portray witches, both real and from film. Jones’ subjects span the last century, and it is important to note that her images are always revised images from those found in the media.

Finally, the exhibition includes P.’s small, full-length portraits of Jones done in the manner of Whistler - her carmine hair set in contrast to a grey background - along with a pair of slender patinated brass tables as an allusion to dandyism, having an allegorical function similar to the other works in the exhibition.


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Active since the early ‘80s, Jones has acquired the status of an underground icon and polymath: for her super-8 films, her seminal ‘zine J.O.’s, and as a member of the Riot Grrrl band, Fifth Column, which are internationally acclaimed milestones in independent film, publishing, and art. Jones was a founding member of Queercore, and concurrently, has always been a dedicated visual artist in the métiers of drawing and collage, who is best known for her female reprises of Tom of Finland drawings: by a simple twist, hers are images of liberation, freed of the fascist tendencies at work in gay male culture. Paul P., who first came to attention in the early 2000s, has developed a wide-ranging practice centered on a series of drawings and paintings of young men appropriated from pre-AIDS gay erotica, often repositioned within a beaux-art context.


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