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Please Be True

opening reception November 22, 7-10pm
November 22nd - December 15th 2019

Maya Ben David
David Bordett
Rabiya Choudhry
Erica Magrey
Georgia McGovern
Daniel Semeraro

When truth evades us, we yearn for an illusion, a fiction, the imagination of internalised mythic realms that artists can create. Walking into this world through these makings we get a glimpse into the minds and tastes, a poetic umami of character and narrative. Artists provide room to escape boredom and painful experiences to show life dipped in imagination- bringing an object to life. Facing reality is really only part of life, just think of where we would be without Unicorns and Tyrannosaurus Rex and Anthropomorphic Airplanes. Not to say that artists imaginations are bound to the fantastical- it can be more subtle everyday objects that make the inside joke work. In a way the artist's version of the truth becomes part of how we remember a thing. The works become truth.

curated by Steve Mykiety

Maya Ben David (MBD) is a Toronto-based Jewish-Iranian Anthropomorphic Airplane. Working in video, installation and performance, she creates worlds and characters that aid her ongoing exploration of anthropomorphism, cosplay and performative personas. Ben David presents the origin stories of her characters in the form of video and performance, and expands on them via her online presence. They often inhabit alternate universes accompanied by nostalgia, such as the worlds of Pokémon and Spiderman. In addition, Ben David also plays a character called MBD who is known for having multiple feuds with her many alter egos as well as the art world.

David Bordett was born in a late 18th century log house in a remote corner of Virginia's Appalachian Mountains. He received his BFA from the VCU Department of Sculpture and Extended Media in Richmond, Virginia in 2013. Bordett now splits his time between New Orleans, Louisiana and Brooklyn, New York where he primarily lives and works.

Rabiya Choudhry was born in Glasgow in 1982 to Scottish and Pakistani parents and trained at Edinburgh College of Art to MA level, graduating in 2006. She held a major solo exhibition at Glasgow's legendary artist run space Transmission Gallery in 2018. Choudhry participated in the Dundee Contemporary Arts' exhibition DCA Thomson (2016-17). She was commissioned by Glasgow's 'Tramway Local' programme to produce Govanhill-based public engagement project Sign Of The Times (2017). "Rabiya Choudhry makes paintings that are like the thought bubbles of a particularly active mind. They skid from joy to darkness, combining the aesthetics of Robert Crumb cartoons and hand-painted Bollywood posters with the surrealism of Max Ernst and an under-current of Philip Guston." Chris Sharratt in Frieze Magazine.

Erica Magrey is a Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artist working with video, performance, music, costume, sculpture, photography, and set design. She was a resident of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Workspace Residency and Smack Mellon Workspace Residency, the 2011 NY Artist in Residence with Atelier Mondial in Basel, Switzerland, and a 2012 NYFA Fellow in Interdisciplinary Work. Career highlights include screenings, performances and exhibitions at Socrates Sculpture Park, The Sculpture Center, The Whitney Museum of American Art, Kaskadenkondensator (Basel), The Kitchen, 106 Green, Klaus von Nichtssagend, Magic Pictures (Philadelphia, PA), Freight + Volume, and Storefront for Art and Architecture.

Georgia Diva McGovern (b. 1988, NY, NY) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She received her MFA from The New York Studio School and a BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Georgia has attended residencies at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (Canada), Boxo Projects (Joshua Tree, CA) And Tyrone Guthrie (Ireland). Recent exhibitions include Land Gallery (Kansas City, MO), Safe Gallery (Brooklyn, New York), Baba Yaga Gallery (Hudson, NY), and Patrick Parrish Gallery (New York, NY). She also exhibited with Andrew Edlin Gallery at The 2017 Outsider Art Fair in New York, NY. Georgia is a recipient of the 2009 Roger Brown Fellowship granted by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Georgia has a forthcoming curatorial project with Olympia Collective at Orgy Park in Brooklyn, New York.

Daniel Horatio Semeraro (born Hyman J. Berkman) is a non-local waveform from thither and yon. He briefly attended the University of Universities between 1981 and 1987 --but dropped out before completing any classes. Over the ensuing years a less ambiguous narrative was deftly formed. Adjectives have often been used in association with his work. He is currently a Hunchback. Now a Soldier. Now a Hunchback.