

L A U R E L G I T L E N

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TYPICAL FRANKENSTEIN

Tom Holmes
Anissa Mack
Marlene McCarty
Dave McKenzie

November 30-December 30, 2012

Opening reception Friday, November 30, 6-8pm

Laurel Gitlen is pleased to present *Typical Frankenstein*, an exhibition organized with assistance from Anissa Mack, featuring works by Tom Holmes, Anissa Mack, Marlene McCarty, and Dave McKenzie. The exhibition runs November 30-December 23, 2012 and will be the last exhibition in our current space at 261 Broome Street. In January, we will reopen in our new location at 122 Norfolk Street on the Lower East Side.

The body – as a fragment, an abstraction, a monstrous reference – is central to the works in this exhibition, which examine how the body can persist through its own replacement or absence, or that which is easily redefined as death. In its obliteration of the body, death also leaves behind traces: what is recalled or is left behind. These allusions to death are often paired with absurdity, humor, or perversity mirroring our cultural confusion surrounding death's expression. Often referencing the figure through the famous, the fictional, or the remembered, these perversions and transgressions of the body also have latent and not-so-latent undertones of violence and queer sexuality – confused and conflated indications of excess with disregard for restraint, transgressing the boundaries of the self. In *Typical Frankenstein*, an enlarged slide carrier refers to an absent publicity image of the late princess Diana, suicide-note style collages place teenage murderesses in Gap advertisements, disembodied legs resemble reliquaries, and BooBerry boxes are covered with death masks and bouquets.

Tom Holmes (b. 1975) lives and works in Tennessee. Recent exhibitions include solo exhibitions at Galerie Catherine Bastide, Brussels, and Bureau, New York; and group exhibitions at Marianne Boesky, New York and Malmö Konstmuseum, Sweden. Holmes will be the subject of a forthcoming solo exhibition at the Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland.

Anissa Mack (b. 1970) lives and works in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include the Portland Institute of Contemporary Art in conjunction with the lumber room residency, OR; the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum; and the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center. Mack's work has been included in several recent group exhibitions at Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York; CAPC Musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, France; and the Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia.

Marlene McCarty (b. 1957) lives and works in New York. In 2010, NYU Steinhardt's 80WSE hosted *im into you now*, a 30-year survey of McCarty's work. McCarty has also exhibited at the Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland; the Busan Biennial, Korea; the Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany; ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany; and the Istanbul Biennial. As a member of Gran Fury, the AIDS activist collective, McCarty staged public interventions using the language of art and advertising that put pressure on politicians and helped bring the gay and lesbian community into mainstream consciousness. Gran Fury's work was exhibited at the 1990 Venice Biennale and the Walker Art Center.

Dave McKenzie (b. 1977) lives and works in New York. McKenzie's work is currently on view in *Blues for Smoke*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and in *The Living Years: Art after 1989* at the Walker Art Center. A new performance work will premier at Art Public, Art Basel Miami Beach, December 6-9, 2012. Recent solo exhibitions include the Aspen Art Museum, Colorado; Susanne Vielmetter and REDCAT, Los Angeles; and the ICA Boston. McKenzie's work was included in group exhibitions including *The Ungovernables: The Second New Museum Triennial*, New Museum, New York; *Prospect 1: New Orleans*; and *Black is, Black Ain't*, The Renaissance Society, the University of Chicago.