

# OSMOS

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6-9p

**All Fine Figures** is an exhibition featuring the work of young artists familiar with a world in which meaning is arbitrary and signifiers can be employed to almost any means. In a “Ce n'est pas une pipe” moment, the figure becomes not an indexical representation of something, but rather invariably fetishistic or familiar--an empty glyph ready to be imbued with meaning or a blank wall to be projected upon. In a “If you think this world is bad, you should see some of the other ones” kind of way, this relativism can at times beget optimism.

If the superhero found in Peter Mix's paintings is recognized to be the inadequate man that he is, or if Claire Christerson's freakish dolls are the norm, then perhaps the ideological structures that institute so much oppression might be malleable after all. Not to say a post-anything world is better off, but perhaps it gives us room to grow. Michael Bailey-Gates responds by developing a language of his own, while Logan Jackson and Payton Barronian appropriate the tropes and slickness of commercial photography and video production. There seems to be recognition among these artists that truth is always up for revision. But should we exploit this slippage and project ourselves into hegemony--wealth, power, desirability, or whatever else is deemed aspirational? Or should we abandon language altogether? Is silence golden or merely gilded?

Ser Serpas' anthropomorphic assemblages and Momo Gordon's phantasmagorical landscapes suture the gap between representation and reality with inchoate and unencumbered beauty. Here we find the figure flirting with abstraction, reveling in its newfound sensuousness. This exhibition has been organized by Kenta Murakami in collaboration with Cay-Sophie Rabinowitz as part of a special anniversary year of programming looking forward and back with OSMOS.

Twenty years ago, Joachim Abrell and Christian Rattemeyer initiated OSMOS in Berlin. OSMOS was ambulant for more than a decade until Cay Sophie Rabinowitz moved OSMOS into a former anarchist tavern in New York where exhibitions and gatherings happen in the store front; editorial work is done on OSMOS Books and OSMOS Magazine in the back office, and on the corner in First Street Greenpark we all get to share in the realization of public art projects. OSMOS continues to evolve independently but with a fully integrated program of curated and edited content created by the talented and the generous.

**Mike Bailey Gates** (b. 1993) graduated from SVA in 2015, by which he was awarded the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation Award, and has participated in group exhibitions at the Czech Center, The Newstand at the Museum of Modern Art, and CK2 Gallery in 2016 (all New York); Photoville, Auto Body, The Hole Gallery, Artspace (all New York) in 2015; and Mike Weiss Gallery (New York) in 2014, among others. His fashion photography and modeling work have been included in numerous publications.

**Payton Barronian** (b. 1990) graduated from NYU in 2011 and is a Brooklyn-based artist and graphic designer. His video work was included in the Feelings Film Festival curated by Chloe Wise (Montreal) in 2016 and has been published on You Do You, CR Fashion Book, Paper Magazine, and i-D.

**Claire Christerson** (b. 1993) is an interdisciplinary artist working and living in New York City. She graduated from the SVA with a BFA in Photography in 2015. Her work focuses on character and symbol repetition through narrative. Claire is currently in the process of making new work involving a combination of video, illustration, sculpture and photography. In 2016, she showed work at the Spring//Break Art Fair. Claire was also a part of the group show, "Youth Explosion," at the Czech Center this past summer 2016.

**Logan Jackson** (b. 1991) graduated from SVA in 2015 and has participated in group exhibitions at Art Basel Miami Beach (2016); ATM Gallery, Austin, TX (2016); Pulse Art Fair and Miami Project (both Miami, FL), Anthology Film Archive, Photoville (both New York), and Photo LA (all 2015). His commercial and fashion photography has been commissions by W Magazine, Glossier, Bloomberg, Businessweek, Opening Ceremony, Richards, King Kong, Wonderland, Editorial Magazine, among others, and in 2016 he founded the online agender fashion publication You Do You.

**Peter Mix** (b. 1994) is a Brooklyn-based painter who graduated from SVA in 2016. His work examines a particular strand of American masculinity, systems of representation, and the viral replication and use of language within the meme.

**Momo Meow** (b. 1993) is an Oregon-based artist who lives in a house she built with her boyfriend on the sea. Her drawings presented here are the illustrations to an ongoing children's book.

**Ser Serpas** (b. 1995) is a Brooklyn-based artist, poet, and trans activist who will graduate from Columbia University in 2017. Her poetry has been published in DIS Magazine and ECOCORE journal and her modeling has appeared in various fashion magazines. She has collaborated on work featured in solo-exhibitions by Hannah Black and Donna Huanca, as well as performances by India Salvador Menezes. She will be performing next month at MoMA PS1.