

MAIL ORDER MONSTERS

Mat Brinkman, Tomoo Gokita, Evan Gruzis, Ben Jones, Eddie Martinez
Dan McCarthy, Taylor McKimens, Takeshi Murata, Aurel Schmidt, Fran Spiegel

10 June — 3 July 2008 12.00 — 19.00 Mon to Fri

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Andreas Melas Presents announces **MAIL ORDER MONSTERS**, a group exhibition curated by Kathy Grayson exploring new trends in fucked-up figuration. Every generation has its unique take on the figure and the freshest figurative art seems to portray the figure as broken, decaying, uncanny, and monstrous! While the Fractured Figure exhibition recently at the DESTE Museum explores a prestigious array of established artists practicing in this mode, this exhibition focuses on the younger generation of monsters bred out of our strange and unique NOW.

Each artist in this exhibition forges their monster in a unique way:

Francine Spiegel makes primordial females that are half zombie and half Beyonce. Glamorous and gory, she explores the female monster and the fetish figure swathed in slime, spaghetti, ooze, and glitter.

Ben Jones takes a fresh look at figuration in his videos, paintings, and comics by his odd conceptual logic and excellent line work. In this exhibition his video "Facemaker" is a Mr. Potato Head scrolling spree of morphing faces.

Tomoo Gokita favours creepily still portraits of women and wrestlers executed exclusively in black and white. These faces occasionally escape his brush unscathed, but more often are tangled into knots, unearthed by abstract machine-like forms, or obliterated in one big gesture.

Drawing with paint, and often hastily, Eddie Martinez configures ambiguous scenes of interaction played out between barely-held together fractured figures and the odd inanimate objects that decorate their interiors.

Taylor McKimens' monsters are not terribly other-worldly or fantastical but are rather the folks next door, down the street, or on the wrong side of the tracks. Deadbeats and derelicts roam sparse, harshly lit worlds of soggy bread and Band-Aids, bologna and knotted garden hose.

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Dan McCarthy's figures are softly grounded in minimal settings with gentle gouache-like layers, their limbs sculpturally suffused and comically cylindrical, affecting poses from classical Greece. But then! Everyone's pubes show through their underwear, their foreheads are all too large, and somewhere a slosh of paint has mutated a limb or two.

Takeshi Murata's videos are seething masses of data distortion and fractured figuration. Humans, monkeys, and monsters slog through and come apart in a beautiful complex pattern of disrupted video.

Aurel Schmidt builds terrifying Archimboldo babes out of the punkest junk around. With exquisitely rendered colored pencil and graphite, her drawings in this show are from a series called "Party Monsters", who seem to have caught their monstrous ugliness from a few different types of very long partying nights.

Evan Gruzis is not from LA but looks like he just returned on the red-eye: a malaise straight out of the Hollywood hills seeps into his portraits and landscapes channeled through Ed Ruscha. In this show he makes spectral portraits of anonymous monsters.

Mat Brinkman is a legendary underground artist with a graphic and comic focus who is at the center of a very influential force in new artmaking coming from Providence, RI. In this rare show, Mat's molting ink monsters skulk about in deeply-furrowed burn suits of gore, rage from behind fused flesh mask faces, and curl up in the corner to stroke their horns.

This first version of this exhibition took place at Peres Projects, Berlin last summer. The second incarnation appeared at Deitch Projects September, 2007 in New York. A full-colour catalogue will be available through PictureBox documenting all three exhibitions.