

rodolphe janssen

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Sascha Braunig

PILLAR

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Franco Bifo Berardi called us the “smooth generation”, one that does not tolerate armpit or pubic hair. Rather, we need “perfect compatibility in order to interface corporeal surfaces in connection.” With smoothness brings the illusion of closeness; the interface becomes the body, the body becomes the interface.

For her first solo exhibition at Rodolphe Janssen, Sascha Braunig will present a new series of paintings that insinuate themselves with a seductive smoothness, even as their subjects attempt to overwhelm the picture plane. Skinned and splayed, reduced to lithe metallic forms, Braunig’s figures slip between folds and take their form from globular bacteria. They consume and infect their given space, insisting on objecthood over the entrapment of a glossy surface.

Several of Braunig’s vertical, attenuated figures—such as in *La Maitresse*—appear to be tied, pinned or directly stretched onto the frame that contains them. Apparently immobilized in this way, their rasterized bodies nevertheless threaten to trespass into the viewer’s three-dimensional world.

Curiously, Braunig paints from clay sculptures she constructs alongside her canvases—the shadows that offer corporeal weight to her figures are meticulously rendered from life. Seemingly anachronistic, this painting process lends her works a rare hapticality, unveiling all-too-real details (like the awkward shadow a pin casts as it pierces a cut-out dress in *Rebecca*) even when blended with invented and impossible moments.

But Braunig’s models also subtly operate within a uniquely feminine space, one long occupied by the female muses—often artists themselves—of male-dominated avant garde painting. The unforgiving relationship between artist and subject, subject and object is at once softened and empowered as Braunig plays within this seedy zone of the male grotesque—breaking its spell through the legerdemain of her surreal fragmentation.

About the artist :

Sascha Braunig (born 1983 in Qualicum Beach, Canada) lives and works in Portland, ME. She holds a BFA from the Cooper Union, New York, NY, and a MFA from Yale University, New Haven, CT. Alongside recent solo exhibitions at Foxy Productions, New York, NY, Braunig has recently participated in the New Museum Triennial, New York, NY, as well as group exhibitions at Anton Kern Gallery, New York, NY; Office Baroque, Brussels, Belgium; and Regina Rex, Brooklyn, NY. She will participate in forthcoming group exhibitions at White Cube, London, UK, and Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, OH, and will have a solo exhibition at Kunsthall Stavanger, Norway in 2016.

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Sascha Braunig

Biography

Born in 1983 in Qualicum Beach, BC, Canada
Lives and works in Portland, ME USA

Education

2008 Master of Fine Arts, Yale University, New Haven, CT
2005 Bachelor of Fine Arts, The Cooper Union, New York, NY

Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 - *Sascha Braunig*, Kunsthall Stavanger, Norway
- 2015 - *Sascha Braunig*, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium
- *Sascha Braunig*, Foxy Production, New York, NY
- 2013 - *Wriste, Blister, Plaster*, Foxy Production, New York, NY
- 2011 - *Sascha Braunig*, Foxy Production, New York, NY

Group Exhibitions

- 2016 - *Stranger*, Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, OH
- 2015 - *Reinventing Representation*, Curated by Barry Schwabsky, White Cube, London, UK
- *Soft Opening*, Curated by Franklin Melendez and Queer Thoughts, Galerie Éric Hussenot, Paris, France
- *The Sentence*, by Public Fiction, China Art Objects, Los Angeles, CA
- *DNA*, LOYAL Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
- *Rio*, Curated by Louis-Philippe Van Eeckhoutte, Office Baroque, Brussels, Belgium
- *Surround Audience: 2015 New Museum Triennial*, Curated by Lauren Cornell and Ryan Trecartin, New Museum, New York, NY
- *The Painter of Modern Life*, Organized by Bob Nickas, Anton Kern Gallery, New York, NY

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- *Face It*, Full Haus, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014
 - *Trioceros*, Regina Rex, Brooklyn, NY
 - *The Hovering Life*, kijidome, Boston, MA
 - *Das Optische Unbewusste / The Optical Unconscious*, Organized by Fredi Fishcli, Niels Olsen, and Bob Nickas, Kulturbüro Alte Fabrik, Switzerland
 - *Shakti*, Brand New Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2013
 - *2013 Maine College of Art Faculty Exhibition*, ICA at MECA, Portland, ME
 - *The Reveal*, Loyal Gallery, Malmo, Sweden
 - *Celluloid Brushes: An Anthology of the Filmic Perception of the Artist from 1942 til Today*, A project by Etablissement d'en Face, Brussels, Ludlow 38, New York, NY
 - *DNA: Strands of Abstraction*, Curated by Paul Sinclair, Loretta Howard, New York, NY
 - *Alex Da Corte: Fun Sponge*, The Institute of Contemporary Art / MECA, Portland, ME
 - *A Top Hat, A Monocle, and A Butterfly*, Curated by Anthony Huberman, Etablissement d'en face projects, Brussels, Belgium
 - *Rien Faire et Laisser Rire*, Organized by Bob Nickas, Galerie Rudolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium
 - *Animal/Vegetable/Mineral: The Artist's Guide to the World*, Florence Griswold Museum, CT
 - *Surreal Selves*, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, ML
 - *The Stairs Turned Back Into Stairs*, Albus Greespon, New York, NY
- 2012
 - *Christian Sampson, Mira Dancy, Sascha Braunig & Matt Savitsky*, Bull and Ram, New York, NY
 - *East West Shift to the Middle, Part 2*, Bill Brady KC, Kansas City, MO
- 2011
 - *A Pop Up Portrait Show*, Scott Cohen, Hudson, NY
 - *Bridgehampton Biennial*, Organized by Bob Nickas, Bridgehampton, NY
 - *Friendship of the Peoples*, Simon Oldfield Gallery, London
- 2010
 - *The Pencil Show*, Foxy Production, New York, NY
 - *Dump Art/ Deponiekunst*, Neukölln Swing Space, Berlin, Germany
 - *Mise en place*, Recess Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009
 - *X is just a little black letter...*, Port D'Or, Brooklyn, NY

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- *Pulp and Dagger*, Everard Findlay, Brooklyn, NY
 - *Baker, Braunig, Gokita, Hopkins*, Foxy Production, New York, NY
 - *The Crack-Up*, ATM Gallery, New York, NY
 - *PIFAS Town Project: The Queue*, Philadelphia Institute for Advanced Study, Philadelphia, PA
 - *Everything Must Go*, Curated by Rachel Higgins, Century Plaza Shopping Mall, Birmingham, AL
- 2008
- *The Cabernet Initiative Presents: Introduction*, The Cabernet Initiative, Brooklyn, NY
 - *Inside the Out*, J. Vandervoort Werkhaus, Brooklyn, NY
 - *LOOP Video Art Fair*, Barcelona, Spain
 - *Yale MFA Thesis Show*, Green Hall Gallery, New Haven, CT
- 2007
- *Hilary Irons and Sascha Braunig*, Guertin's Graphics, Chicago, IL
 - *Foyer: Fashion*, Foyer Gallery (swing space), Brooklyn, NY
- 2006
- *Flex Your Textiles*, John Connelly Presents, New York, NY Speed
 - *Limit*, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, NY
 - *Young Painters*, Offices of Clifford Chance, New York, NY
- 2005
- *Night Shift*, White Box Gallery, New York, NY USA
- 2004
- *The Infinite Fill Show*, Curated by Cory and Jaime Arcangel, Foxy Production, New York, NY USA