

THE COMPANY
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HOURS: WED-SAT 12-6PM, OR BY APPOINTMENT

Artists Biographies

SHEYLA BAKAL's photographs are a secret history of the Lower East Side that escape professional art historicizing. A Ford Agency model and a friend and collaborator of Peter Hugar, she left modeling to document the drag queens, runaways, and the burlesque stars of Second Avenue, capturing them in the Rococo of their entire self-invented splendor.

GENE BARNES a.k.a. PORTIA MANSON (1964-1995) was a filmmaker, zine-maker, pornographer and rabble rouser. He was a member of the Radical Faerie community Wolf Creek in Oregon. After graduating from The Evergreen State College in 1990, he moved to the Bay Area where he continued to make films and porn through his production company, *Film At Eleven*. He was also the editor of radical zine, *Hippy Dick* which he distributed through *High Drive Publications* and produced 6 issues. He also worked for *Bear* magazine. Portia's films were heavily inspired by Kenneth Anger--in fact she produced *Mercury Rising* as a nod and long lost third installment to Anger's *Scorpio* and *Lucifer Rising*. She would shoot on super-8 and edit to original sound compositions by Sean Lawlor, a friend from Evergreen. Experimental in nature, the films were reflective of sex-magick, pleasure, ritual, living with AIDS and the hopeful arrival of an alien ship to rescue all the damsels in distress. Gene was HIV-positive for many years, succumbing to an AIDS-related illness just as protease inhibitors were becoming available. As the Bikini Kill song describes him, "Another boy genius fucking gone."

GARY LEE BOAS grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he spent much time daydreaming about TV and movie stars. As a devoted fan, Boas began photographing famous people with his Brownie camera at age 14. Never considering himself an artist, or even a photographer, Boas' obsession grew, uninterrupted for 35 years, into what has become a massive archive of over 80,000 photographs, autographs and personal letters from movie stars and famous people. Since the release of his book *Starstruck: Photographs from a Fan* (Dilettante Press, 2000), Boas has become internationally-recognized for the snapshots he took of famous people in the 60s and 70s as an unknown fan. His images have been exhibited in numerous galleries and museums throughout the U.S. and Europe. His second book of photographs, *Gary Lee Boas: New York Sex 1979-1985* (Edition Mennour 2004), presents another Boas obsession—the hustlers, strippers, porn stars and sex clubs he encountered as a fan/participant in New York in the late 70s to early 80s. Today Boas continues to photograph celebrities, as well as documenting the many other interesting characters in his life. He lives and works in Lancaster and Los Angeles.

HEDI EL KHOLTI is a co-editor for the independent press, *Semiotext(e)*. His other projects include curating *Starstruck* by Gary Boas at Dietch Projects in New York, The Photographer's Gallery in London, and Karen Lovegrove in Los Angeles; designing *Extreme Canvas, Movie Poster Painting from Ghana* which was exhibited at the Fowler Museum, UCLA; curating *New York Sex 1979-1985* by Gary Boas at Kamel Mennour Gallery in Paris; organizing two film series in Los Angeles in 2000 showcasing the works of Alexander Sukurov, Chantal Akerman, Tsai Ming-Liang and Pedro Costa, and curating the ongoing *Deleuze A to Z* film screenings at the Mandrake bar in Los Angeles. He currently edits a zine called *Animal Shelter*. Hedi El Kholti grew up in Morocco, studied in Paris, and lives in Los Angeles.

MATT FISHBECK is a musician and visual artist based in Los Angeles. Fishbeck commandeers the amorphous pop group *Holy Shit*, which he formed in 2001 with Ariel Pink. Since then, *Holy Shit* has written & recorded about 60 songs, and has performed about 70 times; about 85 different musicians have been active members of the group at one point or another. They put out an album *Stranded At Two Harbors* (UUAR, 2006), and have a new '45 called *Rough + Tumble* (Beatrice Records, 2008). They will release an album in 2009 on the Tiny Creatures record label. *Workish*, Fishbeck's first art show at Tiny Creatures in 2006 led to a group show at Daniel Hug Gallery and his solo debut *We Never Close* at New High Art Gallery. Fishbeck was born in Santa Monica, CA, in 1975. He received his Bachelor's degree from Harvard University in 1998.

MARK FLORES, whose drawings often derive from photographs and video stills, exhibits regularly in Los Angeles and London. Mark Flores has had solo exhibitions at Alison Jacques Gallery, London, England (2006). He was most recently included in *Sympathy for the Devil: Art and Rock and Roll Since 1967*, curated by Dominic Molon for the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

PAUL GELLMAN was born in St. Louis Missouri. He received his BFA at The Cooper Union, MFA at the Rhode Island School of Design, and currently teaches printmaking at a local city college in Los Angeles. Gellman has recently shown his artwork in LA galleries Angstrom and Bonnelli, along with a group show at Tiny Creatures last August. His inspiration includes Tarot cards, 99-cent stores, spirituality, nudity, backpacking, music, neon colors, and glitter. As well as being "Tall Paul" in the Echo Park community, Gellman also works with art duo *Los Super Elegantes* to put on plays and performances with the *New Energy Encounter Group*, creates the zine *Animal Shelter* with Hedi El Kholti, and performs music with avant-group *Vibe Central*.

ROBERT ALAN HYDE was born in 1946 in Salt Lake City, Utah and raised in Malibu and Santa Cruz, CA. At 16, Robert was awarded a National gold medal in the *Scholastic Arts* contest. He attended California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland on a scholarship they awarded him. At the age of 21, he opened an art gallery/gift shop called *The Shire Market* at Doug Weston's *Troubadour* (a famous folk club in West Hollywood, CA). Robert then moved back to Salt Lake City, Utah in 1970 where he opened *The Artist Workshop and Gallery* in Trolley Square from 1972-1983. After closing his gallery, he continued creating metal sculptures in his studio at home until 2006, when Robert and Trevor (his partner of 20 years) moved to The Berkshires in Washington, MA. "Since I was a child I have felt the need to create artistically through a variety of media. Through this artistic process, I feel a sense of peace and I am drawn into a world of my own. My connection to myself and to the world around me becomes more real when I am in this artistic state of mind." -- Robert Alan Hyde

DAVID JONES received his BFA from Tyler School of Art in 1991. He is an interdisciplinary artist currently living in Los Angeles. He is part of the duo, Kelly and David, a collaboration that has evolved over the last decade into a variety of musical and performative forms. Kelly and David premiered folk rock opera *Contraption Spell* at REDCAT's NOW Festival, have produced soundworks, photographs and most recently, a choral performance piece, *Untitled Feather Chorale No. 1* which they performed at Highways and REDCAT's Fall Studio. Other notable projects include *Faustus's Children*, a collaborative single channel video and installation created with artists Michele O'Marah and Tim Jackson for which Jones wrote and composed the music with Kelly Marie Martin. *Faustus's Children* was shown at Sister Gallery in Los Angeles, the New York Underground Film Festival and Bard College in Hudson, NY. The work was reviewed in Artforum, Frieze, Art Review, and the Los Angeles Times. Upcoming shows include a gay themed group exhibition co-curated with Hedi El Kholti at The Company in Los Angeles and a multimedia exhibition with musicians Jim Krewson and Paul Bonomo at Basso in Berlin, Germany. Both feature his current solo animation projects, works which embody gay male identity and deconstruct masculine privilege into interpretative works of creative personal and cultural critiques. The current works reflect the aesthetics of his past and blend the playful and experimental constructions of his practice with the soul of a confessional poet.

WILLIAM E. JONES is a Los Angeles based filmmaker and photographer. His work is included in the Nordic Pavilion of the 53rd Venice Biennale. He has exhibited in museums and galleries including Tate Modern, London; Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Biennial (2008 and 1993); Wexner Center for the Arts; The Getty Center; Sundance Film Festival; Rotterdam International Film Festival; Filmforum; Artists Space; and LACE. Jones has received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and a Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award.

BRIAN KENNY was born 1982 in Heidelberg, Germany on an American military base. While growing up, he traveled extensively throughout the US with his Army family. As a teenager, he was a competitive gymnast. After high school, he went to Oberlin Conservatory to study voice, but eventually left Oberlin to concentrate on visual art. Kenny works in drawing, painting, sculptures, text, sound, video and blogging. In 2004, Brian moved to New York where he began collaborating with Slava Mogutin under team name *SUPERM*. They are responsible for site-specific, multimedia gallery and museum shows in New York, Los Angeles, Berlin, London, Moscow, Oslo, Bergen, Haifa, and León, Spain.

SLAVA MOGUTIN is a Siberian-born artist and writer who was exiled from Russia for his queer writings and activism at the age of 21. He was granted political asylum in the US with the support of Amnesty International and PEN American Center. He is the author of 2 hardcover monographs of photography, *Lost Boys* and *NYC Go-Go* (Powerhouse Books, Brooklyn, 2006 and 2008), and 7 books of writings published in Russian. Mogutin's photography has been exhibited internationally and featured in a wide range of publications including *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *ArtUS*, *i-D*, *Visionaire*, *L'Uomo Vogue*, and *Stern*. In 2004, together with his partner-collaborator Brian Kenny, he formed *SUPERM*, a multimedia art team, responsible for site-specific installations and gallery and museum shows in New York, Los Angeles, Moscow, Berlin, London, Stockholm, Oslo, Bergen, Haifa, and León, Spain. He lives and works in New York City.

DONNIE & TRAVIS (Donnie Cervantes and Travis Boyer) have been working as a collaborative art project since 2004. The work of Donnie & Travis extends both from their shared aesthetic and romantic partnership. Contributing specialized skills in photography and photo printing techniques and diversified fiber arts and painting, the two artists generate a rich and diverse body of visual art. Portraiture, allegory, fantasy, and social sculpture are primary motifs. Their embroidered photographic silk paintings have been exhibited in the US, Mexico, and Europe. Their first solo show of six paintings in 2006 at John Connelly Presents in New York transitioned into a curatorial bonanza of related queer and fiber art called *Flex your Textiles* with artist and musician Ginger Brooks Takahashi. The two live and work in Brooklyn, New York.