

ALYSSA DAVIS GALLERY
New York, NY

Event: *Merde!* Alyssa Davis Gallery Gala

Date: May 26, 2022. 10PM-4AM

Location: 99 Scott

Organized by: Alyssa Davis, Genevieve Goffman, Rachel Rosheger



A green laser lands on Bradford Kessler's piece *Ineffabilis Pueri*, 2022, curated by Anna Frost, one of 64 sculptures included in the *Merde!* auction. Photographer: Davis Fowlkes

Over 1200 guests attended *Merde!*, the inaugural Alyssa Davis Gallery Gala celebrating the cessation of programming at the gallery's former Cornelia Street location in West Village. A re-enactment film of a private investigator's visit to the gallery was written and directed by **Leah Hennessey** and stars **Ruby McCollister** and **Matthew James McAuley**. The film was on view in the VIP Room during the event.

On the indoor stage Alyssa Davis Gallery presented DJ sets and live acts from **Earthater**, **Wicca Phase Springs Eternal**, **Umfang**, **Lydo**, **DeSe Escobar** and **J. Arthur**.

Hosts for the evening were **Coco Campbell**, **Reilly Davidson & Jess Reytblat**, **DeSe Escobar**, **Joey Frank**, **Alejandro Lafontant**, **Yeha Leung**, **Ruby McCollister**, **megsuperstarprincess** and **Jamie Sterns**.

On the outdoor stage **Joe W. Speier** organized a performance program that ran for the entire evening from 10pm-4am. Performing artists included **7imoncello**, **ACCDNTL DRED (Mario Miron)**, **Zoe Argires**, **Zoe Brezsny**, **Micaela Carolan**, **Victoria Campbell**, **Dance Lawyer**, **Dianna Lucia Dragonetti**, **Drumloop**, **Joey Frank**, **Hunter Hunt-Hendrix**, **Justine Lugli**, **Ziggy Gnardust**, **Isabel Eatherly Legate**, **Life Is Not About Stability**, **Abby Lloyd**, **Kevin Mulvey**, **Peyton Peyton**, **salem riin**, **Esther Sibiude**, **Andrea Sisson**, **Samson Stilwell**, **Lauren Tosswill**, **Paige Walton**, **Susannah Yugler**, **Yung Chomsky** and **Monsieur Zohore**.

Monsieur Zohore made a surprise appearance in the form of a cardboard cutout, **Life Is Not About Stability** presented a series of baroque flute fantasias composed by Georg Philipp Telemann, **Isabel Eatherly Legate** choreographed *Screamer's Vision* (*handshoe pumps*) with seven supporting performers and an active motorcycle and **Anna Wintenburg** performed **Peyton Peyton's** *Worms in my mouth again* – an embodied dissociation, a journey into the bowels of the underworld, an exploration of polyvagal theory, an oscillation of bodily states, a cyclical experience of fighting, flighting and freezing, an outward initiation, a coping mechanism for being in a body, an emotional bowel obstruction, and an incantation for good digestion.

There was a live silent auction including sculptures by 64 contemporary artists that were on view during the event on a tiered table built by **The Fernweh NYC**. The works *were not* donations; artists were invited by the gallery to be included in the exhibition and the sculptures were made or selected specifically for the occasion. Models outfitted by **Vaquera** – courtesy of **No Agency** – facilitated bidding for the final two hours of the auction.

Participating auction artists included **E. Adamo, Matias Anon, Thomas Barger, Tyler Berrier, Jessica Butler, Cooper Campbell, Dan Catucci, Gabriel Cohen, Martina Cox, Joel Dean, Ala Dehghan, Forrest Eagle D'Olympia, Matthew Tully Dugan, Travis Fairclough, Ficus Interfaith, Joey Frank, Sophie Friedman-Pappas, Genevieve Goffman, Alice Gong Xiaowen, Shana Hoehn, Paris Hynes, Irina Jasnowski Pascual, Yasmin Kaytmaz, Bradford Kessler, Radimir Koch, Clare Koury, Claire Lachow, Stefany Lazar, Abby Lloyd, Chris Lloyd, Nandi Loaf, Jazmín López, Diana Sofia Lozano, Raphael Lyon, André Magaña, Dan Mandelbaum, Lina McGinn, Georgia McGovern, Kian McKeown, Dean Millien, Erin Mommsen, Brigid Moore, Justin Ortiz, Louis Osmosis, Gosia Pawlowska, Anna Pederson, Alexander Perrelli, Rachel Rosheger, Cecilia Salama, Patrick Sarmiento, sgp, Jo Shane, Howard Spann, Samson Stilwell, Justin Suazo, Nick Sullivan, Ian Swanson, Tenet, John Verdil, Yi Xin Tong, Sara Yukiko Mon, Robert Zehnder and Diego Benavente Zuniga.**

A video program organized by **Rachel Rosheger** included works by **Jakob Boeskov, Bradley Eros & Richard Sylvarnes, Isaiah Davis, Alden Jones, Gregory Kalliche, Nick Lane, Collin Leitch, Alison Nguyen, Irina Jasnowski Pascual, Ida Pruitt, Rachel Rossin, Rebecca Shapass, Karinne Smith and Philip Vanderhyden.**

The red carpet backdrop was hand-drawn by multidisciplinary gay faery **Carson Foley**, which placed guests into a castle-alley streetscape. The ice sculpture by **Genevieve Goffman** greeted guests as a glittering dragon and slowly melted into something resembling more of a traditional swan by the end of the evening.

The exhibition in the VIP Room was curated by **Ludovica Capobianco** and included works by **Vincent Cy Chen, Preston Douglas, Beatrice Scaccia, Julie Severino and Joe W. Speier.**

Merde! Gallery Partners included **Anonymous, ASHES/ASHES, carriage trade, Catbox Contemporary, Duplex, Entrance, eyes never sleep, False Flag, Fragment, Gallery AT, Gern en Regalia, Helena Anrather, Hyacinth, Kings Leap, La Kaje, Lomex, Lubov, M 2 3, Mery Gates, Mrs., no moon, Octagon, Petra Bibeau and Sinkhole Projects.**

A special thanks to our other community partners who contributed their time, skills or resources to *Merde!*, including **Alexander Perrelli Photography** for taking hundreds of photos of guests on the red carpet; **Bela Borsodi** for photographing the **No Agency x Merde!** Auction photo series; **Dan Bunn** and **Junyi Liu** for sketching guests throughout the evening; **Big Window** for hosting our re-enactment film throughout the month of May; **Ending Soon** for styling the cast of the re-enactment and the VIP photoshoot at **The River; Crucible New York** for fabricating **Emma Pryde's** time piece for the VIP Packages; **Enlightenment Wines** and **Honey's** for providing sparkling mead for a celebratory toast during *Merde!*; **The Fernweh NYC** for building the 12' wide tiered table for the auction; **gumgum studio** for perfectly lighting **99 Scott; Lifethyme** for providing non-alcoholic beverages and sparkling waters; **Lionel Champlin Guest House** for supporting the red carpet installation; **MeanRed Productions** for music production assistance; **Montez Press** and **PUBIC ACCESS Live!** (**Jake Brush, Candystore** and **Mike Feswick**) for their live radio show; **Pit Vipers** for providing sunglasses; **Software Studios** for printing and installing the red carpet banner drawn by **Carson Foley; UME Plum Liqueur** for providing specialty cocktails at the VIP bar; **Urbt** for contributing a star for the auction; lastly, our VIP Package Artists: **Faina Brodsky, Dean Cercone, Nik Kosmas, Gitte Maria Moller, Emma Pryde, Lisa Signorini and John Yuyi.**

Essential Note: *Merde!* was not a fundraiser. It was financed in real-time – income from ticket sales paid for the production of the event itself. Sales from the auction items follow a gallery exhibition model and were split evenly between the artist and gallery.

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