

parlour

Golden Girls
August 28 - 29, 2009

Parlour is excited to announce its seventh exhibition, *Golden Girls*. The show will feature figurative paintings by artists Alison Blickle and Megan Burns, both of whom create fantastic environments in which their alter egos frolic freely, explore their sexuality and attempt to connect to something greater than the constructed world around them. By confronting their own fantasies, the artists are not only able to find their own personal freedom—psychological, social, political, etc.—but also jumpstart the viewer’s. *Golden Girls* is generously hosted by Lizzie Stein in her Upper East Side apartment.

Alison Blickle’s practice is admittedly a way for the artist to live out her daydreams, which often have everything to do with connecting to her inner animal and leaving the confines of city-living far behind. Her “protagonists” (loosely based on herself) are always naked or scantily clad, hyper-sexualized, and seemingly fearless creatures, who stroll through, laze about, act up, and seduce in various natural settings. To her subjects, the wilderness is a fantasy world where they not only bond to their environment—sometimes quite literally—but, where their surroundings reciprocate by coming alive before them—again sometimes quite literally. Interestingly, the juxtaposition often appears to be purposefully awkward and conflicted: though feral, the subjects are also highly kempt, and though natural, the settings seem overly zealous. The contradiction on the one hand and the exaggeration on the other, ultimately point to an unwritten, or in this case unpainted answer, in which the true liberation of Alison’s alter ego happens on a more realistic playing field.

A self-proclaimed sci-fi nerd, Megan Burns creates paintings that seem to stem from such films, complete with cataclysmic twists and turns. Her subjects (usually self-portraits) are depicted as erotic and beautiful android-like creatures, devoid of human emotion, yet completely mesmerizing. This could be in part because they are often found in dodgy situations; each painting is a freeze frame of a moment so exhilarating that the artist has pressed pause on her intergalactic remote and captured the suspense—sexual and otherwise—down to the last ecstatic detail. What remain are only a few clues, leaving the viewer to imagine an outcome for the doomed Megan-oid. Depending on the viewer, the subject can escape the inhospitable planet or be pulled back by it’s gravitational force, untangle herself from the cluster of alien crystals or succumb to their poisonous secretion, etc. Her paintings are therefore a concoction made with one part her own fantasy and one part ours.

Golden Girls will also feature several smaller works by each of the artists: Megan’s “little visual one-liners”—artifacts from her personal fantasies and Alison’s femme portraits.

Megan Burns received her MFA from Yale University in 2005 and shows with The Proposition Gallery in New York, where she has had two solo exhibitions. She also writes a monthly column, *Secrets of Lady Geek*, in Geek Magazine. Megan lives and works in Queens. Alison Blickle received her MFA from Hunter College this past spring and has exhibited extensively in California and New York. She will be featured in a group exhibition of recent MFA graduates this September at Deitch Projects. Alison lives and works in Brooklyn.

Golden Girls opens Friday, August 28th from 7 - 10 PM, and can be viewed on Saturday, August 29th from 12 -3 PM by appointment only. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Leslie or Ciara at parlourinfo@gmail.com or visit www.parlourdoor.com.

Parlour is a nomadic exhibition space that presents weekend-long exhibitions in different homes throughout New York City. Its impetus is to showcase the work of contemporary artists in the unique and dynamic setting of actual living spaces. Parlour was conceived by Ciara Gilmartin and Leslie Rosa-Stumpf. Both are graduates of Sarah Lawrence College. Leslie additionally received her MA in Curatorial Studies from Goldsmiths College.

directors

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