

FIXATIONS

Bruce LaBruce
&
Jonathan Johnson

August 10 - September 16, 2022



FIXATIONS

Bruce LaBruce

“When mounting a retrospective photography exhibit of my work, as I have done with *FIXATIONS*, certain motifs, patterns, and obsessions emerge. The body, or post-body, often naked and sexualized, worshipped and desecrated, comes to the fore. It’s an obscure object of desire to be simultaneously adored and debased, blessed and blasphemed. The (post) body is often offered up in parts, a synecdochic tendency in the work that presents the limbs and appendages of subjects that have already been altered in real life - amputated, removed, or altered - or cut off from the ancien regime body by the framing of the subject. An erect cock gloriously protruding from a glory hole is seemingly separated from the body behind the wall in order for it to be worshipped or, in a more violent imagination, severed. A close-up of a man’s bare chest has been spunked upon by the artist, leaving only a trace of the artist’s body and the sexual act he has performed for the viewer to contemplate. Similarly, a priest’s face in close-up has been spunked upon, presumably by God, as he looks heavenward, the cock of the prime mover leaving only a remnant of its sexual manifestation. A subject whose arm has been amputated is photographed so that the top frame also cuts off his head, leaving only the transfigured body as love object. The transbody is ascendant, appearing frequently as a reminder of the mutability and malleability of the biological body. Blind subjects - a holy man with holy wafers covering his eyes, or a punk on a leash held by a nun - are offered as symbols of either blind faith or castration, or as blind prophets, or as avatars of censorship. In every case, the intersection and interchangeability of religious and sexual ecstasy is made manifest (or womanifest). Fetish, which is the starting point for so many of my photographs and films (think the amputee fetishist in *Hustler White*, the gerontophile in *Gerontophilia*, or the twincest of *Saint-Narcisse*) is an act of both divine reverence and devilish profanity.

The exhibit is presented in both microcosm and macrocosm. Two blown up photographs cover two of the walls of the gallery - the glory hole cock, and the photograph of artist Slava Mogutin, shot from below, making him appear as if a giant, the photographer obviously genuflecting before the objectified subject. Both images offer only parts of the whole, but in their epic proportion they expand the body in a gesture of macrophilia, a new genre of pornography, the fetish for the gigantic. The remaining space in the gallery is covered by wallpaper composed of small reproductions of my photographs taken over the last three decades or so, the images repeated over and over again as they might be consumed on social media, reconfigured as a disposable medium of home decor. A selection of seven photographs have been framed and mounted on top of the wallpaper as they might be in a living room or more traditional gallery, merging the contemporary maximalization of imagery evinced by the wallpaper with the more traditional presentation of art as object to be bought and sold.

The rest of the show belongs to my longtime collaborator, the Hamburg-based jeweler and artist Jonathan Johnson, with whom I produce a collaborative line of jewelry, his work riffing on themes and motifs present in my work in his own inimitable style.” (Bruce LaBruce)

Bruce LaBruce is a filmmaker, photographer, writer, and artist based in Toronto but working internationally. Along with numerous short films and music videos, he has written and directed fourteen feature films, including *Gerontophilia*, which won the Grand Prix at the Festival du Nouveau Cinema in Montreal in 2012, and *Pierrot Lunaire*, which won a Teddy Special Jury Prize at the Berlinale in 2014. His feature film *L.A. Zombie* (2010) was notably banned in Australia. His latest movie, *Saint-Narcisse*, was named one of the top ten films of 2021 by John Waters in Artforum. His new porn feature, *The Affairs of Lidia*, from Erika Lust Films, was released in 2022. LaBruce has directed a number of music videos, two of which won him MuchMusic Video Awards in Canada, and recently won Best Gay Director and Best Gay Film at the internationally recognized XBIZ porn awards for his film *Fleapit*.

He has had film retrospectives at the Toronto International Film Festival TIFF/Bell Lightbox in 2014 and at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York in 2015. He will have a film retrospective at the Quebec Cinematheque in Montreal in September 2022. As a visual artist he has had numerous gallery shows around the world, including an infamous one called *Obscenity* at La Fresh Gallery in Madrid, a photography exhibit which caused a national ruckus in Spain in 2012.

LaBruce has written a premature memoir called *The Reluctant Pornographer*, and another called *Porn Diaries*. He has had two books published about his work: *Ride, Queer, Ride*, from Plug-In Gallery in Winnipeg, and *Bruce(x)ploitation*, a monograph from the Italian distributor, Atlantide Entertainment. His photo book *Death Book* was published by Baron Books in 2020. In 2015 Jonathan Johnson published the collection catalogue *Concrete*, a publication about LaBruce's and Jonathan Johnson's ongoing jewellery collaborations. LaBruce has contributed to a variety of international magazines, newspapers and websites as both a writer and photographer, including index magazine, for which he also acted as a contributing editor.

Jonathan Johnson

A display case will show all jewelry made since 2009 by Bruce LaBruce in collaboration with Jonathan Johnson.

With the sculpture *Hard Core*, Jonathan Johnson not only exceeds the limits of good taste, no, he also expands his own world of jewelry making for the exhibition *FIXATIONS* into a walk-in world of objects that do not always seem to promise what the viewer expects hoping for the first look. A display case also serves as a prayer stool, which inevitably turns the viewer into a voyeur. More than 750ct citrines, hand-cut in Germany in the 1950s, adorn the stage for three cast silver figures, all three of which portray the artist himself during sexual acts, in order to open the way for the viewer to dare to take a look inside the showcase.

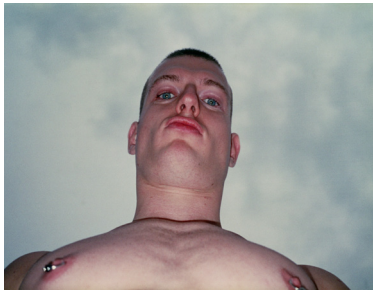
The *Brennende Hindenburg* belt buckle - crafted from 18kt gold and decorated using an old Russian goldsmith's technique, is attached to a belt made from Russian Juchten leather dating back to 1786 and originally used to make Cossack boots off the coast of Plymouth sank in a storm and could only be salvaged again in the 1970s

Jonathan Johnson was born in southern Germany, he began training as a goldsmith in the jewelry industry at the age of 20. He worked for Otto Jakob for 4 years then got his master's degree and went into business for himself.

With his goldsmithing Jonathan Johnson interprets influences of high and pop-culture, philosophy and politics, punk and luxury, fine-art and activism. By merging contradicting elements and subjects, Jonathan Johnson raises his brilliant craftsmanship and the appropriate obsession for detail to a contemporary state-of-the-art level. With much pleasure for tongue-in-cheek provocation Jonathan creates unique works of art, fueled by a concept-driven alloy that is not defined by color or surface but by interdisciplinary content. Jonathan's attitude and method transforms each piece of work into a personal, political and artistic statement. Since 2006, Jonathan Johnson exclusively uses recyclable material (sterling silver and gold) from German refining establishments. He relies completely on green electricity and designs and produces all his works in his studio in Hamburg, Germany.

Jonathan Johnson has been collaborating with artists such as Bruce LaBruce, Asia Argento, Heinz Strunk, Rokko Schamoni, Angie Reed, Moonbootica, Tom of Finland and Arocha-Schraenen for many years.

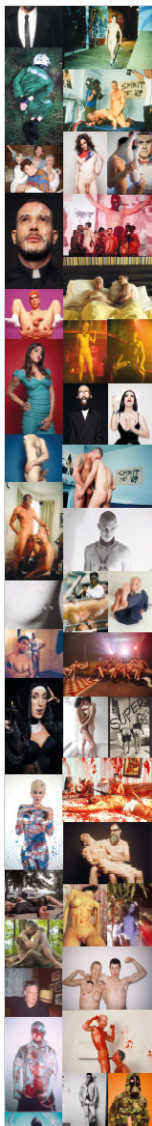
Bruce LaBruce



Epic Slava, 1999
Digital UV-print on Wallcovering



Glory Hole, 2001
Digital UV-print on Wallcovering



Wallpaper of Fixations, 2022
Digital print on paper
500 cm x 71 cm



Answered Prayers (Obscenity), 2012



Spirit of '69, 1998



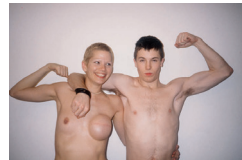
Skateboarder w/ Hard-On #2, 2000



Transwoman with Scarf, 2012



Camo Cock, 2002



Nikky and Ryan, 2000



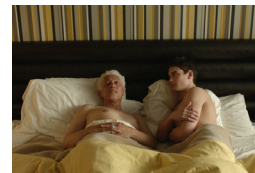
Abercrombie and Fitch w/ Asshole, 2002



Skin Flick Production Still #1, 1998



Polizei (The Raspberry Reich Production Still), 2004



Skateboarder w/ Hard-On #2, 2000



Nipple w/Safety pin (No Skin Off My Ass Production Still), 1990



Gerontofilia (Screen Grab #1), 2012



Pigs Feet, 2002



Fleapit Production Still #1 (Crucifixion), 2018



Genesis, Lady Jaye, Dan Colen and Bryan Dalla, Squeezebox, 2002



Bruce, Josh-Eve and Mrs. Glass (Hustler White-Double Exposure #5), 1995



Two Moons ((Super 8 1/2 Production still #1), 1993



Tony Ward's Back (on the set of Hustler White), 1995



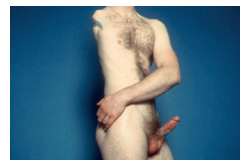
Fleapit (production still) #2, 2018



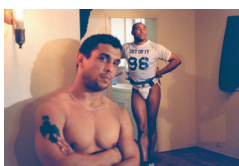
Innamorati, 2017



Divine Alaska (Obscenity), 2012



Headless Amputee, 1999



Out of it (On the set of Hustler White), 1995



Klaus Von Brucker (Super 8 1/2 production still), 1993



100% Rebel, 2002



Pig Mask Blow-Job, 2002



Klaus Von Brucker (No Skin Off MY Ass production still), 1990



L.A. Zombie Production Still #1, 2010



Dixie Cup (Scotch Egg production Still) #1, 2018



Bloody Pieta (AA Bronson), 2002



Bloody Hell, 2001



Sean Ford's Leggs, 2018



Rosy de Palma (Obscenity), 2012



Bloody Prada, 2003



Volker Spengler, Berlin, 2003



Painted Lidia, 2002



Envy, 2016



Saint Narcisse Scen Grab #1, 2020



Spirit of '69, 1998



Scotch Egg production Still, 2018



Blind Prophet (Obscenity), 2012



Kembra at Highland Gardens Hotel, L.A., 2001

All images
digital inkjet print on paper
28 x 43cm and 43 x 28

Jonathan Johnson



Hardcore, 2022

750 ct citrines, goldplated sterling silver, 18ct gold, lacquered wood, glass, leather and silicone
160x 77 x 50cm



Brennende Hindenburg, 2022

18 ct gold, niello and "Juchten" leather

Bruce LaBruce & Jonathan Johnson



Rings

Mother

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass
One size

LA Zombie

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass
One size

I am a Witch

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass
One size

Love Thyself

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass
One size

Pentagram

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass
One size

Bitch, Butch, Daddy, Hunk, Fucker, Saint, Satan, Anal, Cunt, Mother

Blackened sterling silver
Individual size

PIG, Death, LA Zombie, I am a Witch

Blackened sterling silver
One size

BLAB

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass
Large and small

Obscenity

Blackened sterling silver and gold-plated sterling silver
Two finger ring, one size

No Skin Off My Ass

Sterling silver with fire enamel, rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass

One size

Hustler White

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass

One size

Revolutionary

Blackened sterling silver or gold-plated brass

One size

Skull

Blackened sterling silver or gold-plated sterling silver

Individual size

Death Deluxe

Sterling silver or gold-plated sterling silver with cold enamel

Individual size

Necklaces

Cocksucker

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass

55cm

Cabron

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass

55cm

Saint Narsisse

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass

60cm

Misandrists

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass

55cm

Sunglasses

Collaboration with Mapleton / handmade in Germany

Bio-acetate or gold-plated sterling silver

Limited edition of 10

Bracelets

Daddy

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass

20cm

Faggot

Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass

20cm

Others

Obscenity Cockring
gold-plated sterling silver
One size

Obscenity brooch
Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass
One size

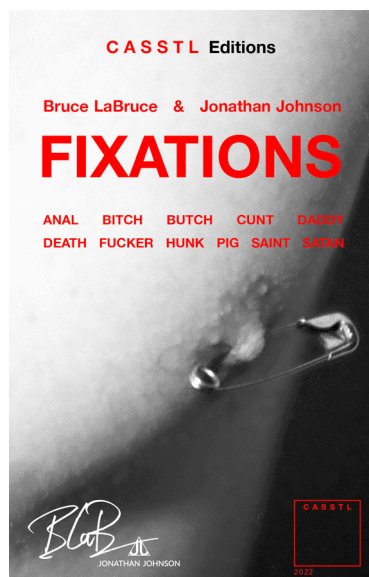
Obscenity Perfume

Persona Non Grata brooch
Rhodinated brass or gold-plated brass
One size

CASSTL edition

A pink gumball machine will be filled with the new **CASSTL** edition. *Anal, Bitch, Butch, Cunt, Daddy, Death, Fucker, Hunk, Pig, Saint* and *Satan* an edition of 11 rings, each in 10 copies (some gold plated brass and some rhodinated brass), is the latest collaboration between Bruce LaBruce and Jonathan Johnson.

One ring can be randomly purchased by buying a 60€ coin and using it to get a ring out of the gumball machine.



CASSTL collaborations

For the occasion of the opening of *FIXATIONS*, **CASSTL** joins forces with DE CINEMA and DE NOR. De Cinema will present a double bill showing *No Skin off my Ass* (1991) and *Saint-Narcisse* (2020), Bruce LaBruce will join for a talk with Guido Totté. The party *ALLE QUEERS IN DE NOR* at De Nor (with concerts and DJ's Bruce LaBruce, Jonathan Johnson & Stéphane Schraenen, and Daniël de Botanicus) will be the apotheosis of a week of Bruce LaBruce and Jonathan Johnson in Antwerp.

De Cinema

Tuesday, August 9, 19:00, double bill ticket 7€

Films and talk with Bruce LaBruce: *No Skin Off My Ass* (1991) and *Saint-Narcisse* (2020)

De Cinema/ De Studio: Maarschalk Gerardstraat 4, 2000 Antwerp

More information : www.destudio.com

CASSTL

Wednesday, August 10, 19:00-22:00

Opening exhibition *FIXATIONS*, Bruce LaBruce & Jonathan Johnson

CASSTL: Braziliëstraat 27, 2000 Antwerp

Open: Thursday, August 11 – Friday, September 16

Monday to Friday from 14:00-18:00

More information: www.casstl.com

De Nor

Saturday, August 13, doors at 20:00, tickets 15€

ALLE QUEERS IN DE NOR with the concert by Steven Warwivk (Uk/Ger) and Liew Niyomkarn (Be) and DJ's Bruce LaBruce (Can), Jonathan Johnson (Ger) & Stéphane Schraenen (Be) and Daniël de Botanicus (Be)

De Nor: Middelheimlaan 59, 2020 Antwerpen

More information: www.denor.com