

Judith Bernstein

Interview

Judith Bernstein – Storefront Show
11 April - 18 April 2020

Dear friends,

Each week we will highlight works of an artist from the gallery in our storefront shows. For the first installment we're delighted to feature Judith Bernstein, who we caught up with to have a conversation about her iconic "Dick in a Head" series.

Karma International: When did you draw your first "Dick In A Head" and do you remember how you came up with the idea?

Judith Bernstein: The "Dick in a Head" series evolved from my FUCK VIETNAM paintings that I made when I was a student at Yale in 1966. I made a painting titled "Cockman Shall Rise Again," and the subject was the reactionary governor of Alabama, George Wallace. Recently, I repurposed the imagery to depict President Trump. Two inspirational dickheads!

I began the "Dick in a Head" series specifically in 2008. I got the idea from making charcoal drawings of heads - and sexuality originates in the head. In these drawings the heads are multiple phalluses. The eyeballs and nose are one phallus, and the second phallus also uses the eyeballs and the protrusion from the head. Two dicks in one head! Never enough!

KI: As with many other motifs in your practice, "Dick in a Head" is a series. How has it evolved since the original?

JB: I started the series working only in charcoal, and it evolved into gorgeous pastels with great color. They were originally more abstracted, and the series has become more literal over time. Each dick is a different head! Each dick is a kick in the head!! Much fun - and I nailed it!!

KI: Like almost all of your works "Dick in a Head" merges with a radical political message. Would you say that the work is of utmost topicality today?

JB: In every era, there are always dickheads around - especially now! Globally, from the US president, everyday acquaintances, and on down. There's no end to dickheads!

If you would like further information or have any questions about our artists, please feel free to contact us via email or by phone. Our new website will be launching soon to provide a more in-depth experience for you.

Take care and much love,
Karolina and Marina