

Terry Fox
Martin Kersels
Michael Smith
Kaari Upson

April 17 – June 30, 2021

Michael Benevento Gallery is pleased to present works by Terry Fox, Martin Kersels, Michael Smith and Kaari Upson.

Children's Tapes by Terry Fox consists of early video vignettes of phenomenologically based actions or tasks staged by the artist, such as trapping a fly under a pie tin snare or balancing ice on a fork, to present an idea and its evolution as playful. These were meant as an alternative to children's television at the time, to eliminate corporate influence on children programming, and present a naturally evolving way of learning through play.

As a kind of sado-masochistic auto portrait, Martin Kersels towering figure is pictured mid fall three times, in three vertically installed stills, each with a dynamic tension that clues the viewer in to the fact that the proto Jackass stunt was indeed legitimate and not faked. Meanwhile, a small black assembly on the wall, resembling an improvised explosive device, plays the tortured sound of the artist moaning, toying with the notion of the angst of the artist. Mounted on the cassette player is a small magnet, which theoretically will erase the moans i.e. the identity of the artist lost to forced entropy.

Executed in a childlike manner and representing a kind of topography are Michael Smith's small drawings resembling children's treasure maps, or battle plans-replete with marching armies of "texters" and mad slogans; as if chasing something which is in constant negotiation. To match this is a kind of "who's on third" video loop, from an original six channel video installation, with the artist constantly fidgeting and restlessly looking for something in one of his many pockets, reverting the treasure hunt from the imagination back to the artist's form.

Kaari Upson's grouping of 12 collages consisting of drawings and watercolors are as intimate as they are alarming. They present a kind of physiological autopsy in their surreal imagery and almost grotesque viscera, through a kind of sweet childlike manner of drawing. These works are matched with a sound work of what we gather to be a child walking her older self through a former home, and reminiscing about events thereof, and again, suggest a kind of conversation between present and younger self.