



Bailey Scieszka

*The Flesh Failures*

23 April - 4 June 2022

GALERIE MARIA BERNHEIM



*I like for a picture to read the reader, to help her  
clarify her relations to whatever is pictured.  
I like pictures that can swing both ways, that choose  
not to actively comfort the viewer.  
They're as twisted as you are.*

Torbjørn Rødland

Many American artists of the early 19th century are called "pioneer", "primitive", or "folk". These artists were of varied backgrounds, mixed lineage and mixed aesthetic traditions, pragmatic and resourceful and, most importantly, highly mobile. Many of them, like Ammi Phillips (1788-1865), traveled throughout the young United States, capturing the age, sex, and social status of their subjects. Following a centuries' old limner tradition, their world was even characterized as "bizarre neomedievalism". This two-word combination is a definitional gift for discussing Bailey Scieszka's paintings and drawings.

Scieszka discovered Phillips's paintings via art and auction catalogues that she bought at estate sales. She learned how Phillips not only emphasized those things that his patrons considered important, but also how his works were under constant reconstruction, "evolving as he added or discarded what he found successful, while taking care to add personal details that spoke to the identity of those who hired him." As Stacy Hollander wrote

Phillips showed an early ability to fulfill the narrative elements mandated by portraiture before the age of photography, but interpreted the expected conventions through unusual choices of colors and atypical compositions.

Originality was not essential to a successful painting. Settings, props, costumes, and poses were often borrowed

from other sources. Phillips's works are spare, but revealing, visual collages.

A few years ago, Scieszka created a project in Los Angeles—Soul Dolphin—at Park View / Paul Soto. It drew upon iconic 19th century American portraiture. It was her variety of "bizarre neomedievalism" at the intersection of fantasy and history, albeit American, rooted in the cultural, social, and political turmoil of the Trump era. Then, as now, Scieszka appropriated "pioneer" American portraiture, repainting persons and personalities, using commercial and fantastical imagery, creating new, almost unimaginable characters.

The exhibition's title was taken from signature song of the 1967 musical Hair: Aquarius / Let the Sunshine In (The Flesh Failures). Scieszka's paintings and drawings, like the song, are paradoxical illustrations of joy and escape and pain and loss. Unlike the current, but hopefully waning trend, of Disney-meets-Magritte, saccharin-sweet surrealism, Scieszka's paintings are deliciously unconventional. She draws, paints, collages and, even, decorates her works like other "pioneer" artists. Her works are not only reflections of the times, but they also look directly at us, making us laugh and shudder with unease.

c.h.b.p.g.b.l.in

Bailey Scieszka lives and works in Detroit. Scieszka has recently shown with Atlanta Contemporary, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Stems Gallery (Brussels), Rachel Uffner (New York), White Columns (New York), Maria Bernheim (Zürich), Larrie (New York), and What Pipeline (Detroit). Her work has been featured in The New Yorker, Vogue, Forbes, The New York Times, Cura, and Cultured. What Pipeline, a Detroit Gallery, recently published More Heart Than Brains: The Collected Plays of Bailey Scieszka.



*To Commemorate Her Death*

2022

Acrylic, gold leaf, Modge Podge, and  
glitter on canvas

88.9 x 63.5 x 3.8 cm

32 x 25 x 1 1/2 in  
(SCIES00030)

USD 5,500.00 (exl. VAT)











***The Flesh Failures***

2022

Acrylic, silver leaf, rose gold leaf, and  
gold

leaf on linen

200.7 x 119.4 cm

79 x 47 in

(SCIES00024)

USD 12,000.00 (exl. VAT)





Ammi Phillips, Mrs. Wilbur (Sarah "Sally" Stearns) Sherman (1789-1845) and daughter Sarah (1814-1872), Yale University of Art









*Ashamed Girls Ponies: Sexy Green M&M*

2022

Acrylic and gold leaf on linen

Acrylic and gold leaf on linen

63.5 x 91.4 x 3.8 cm

25 x 36 x 1 1/2 in

(SCIES00028)

USD 6,500.00 (exl. VAT)













***Trixie Mattel Baby with Adidas  
Face Paint***

2021

Acrylic and gold leaf on linen

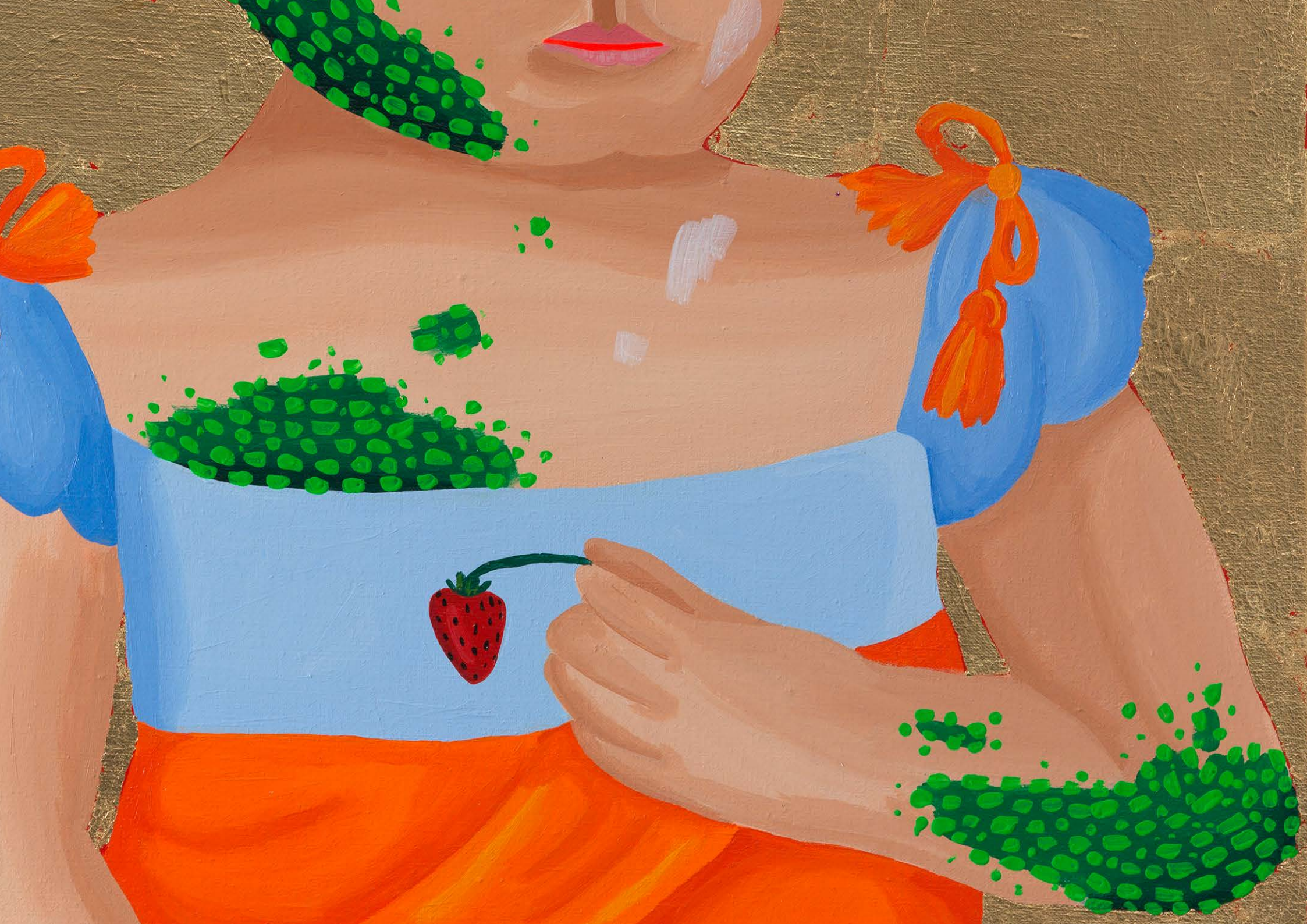
61 x 50.8 cm

24 x 20 in

(SCIES00023)

USD 5,000.00 (exl. VAT)









*Ammi Phillips, The Strawberry Girl, c. 1830, oil on canvas, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, USA*



*Ammi Phillips, Henrietta Dorr, ca. 1814, oil on canvas, Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, USA*



**Furby/Girl with Disney Video Face  
Paint Holding a Shopkins Palm Tree  
with Little Saint James Themed Dress**

2021

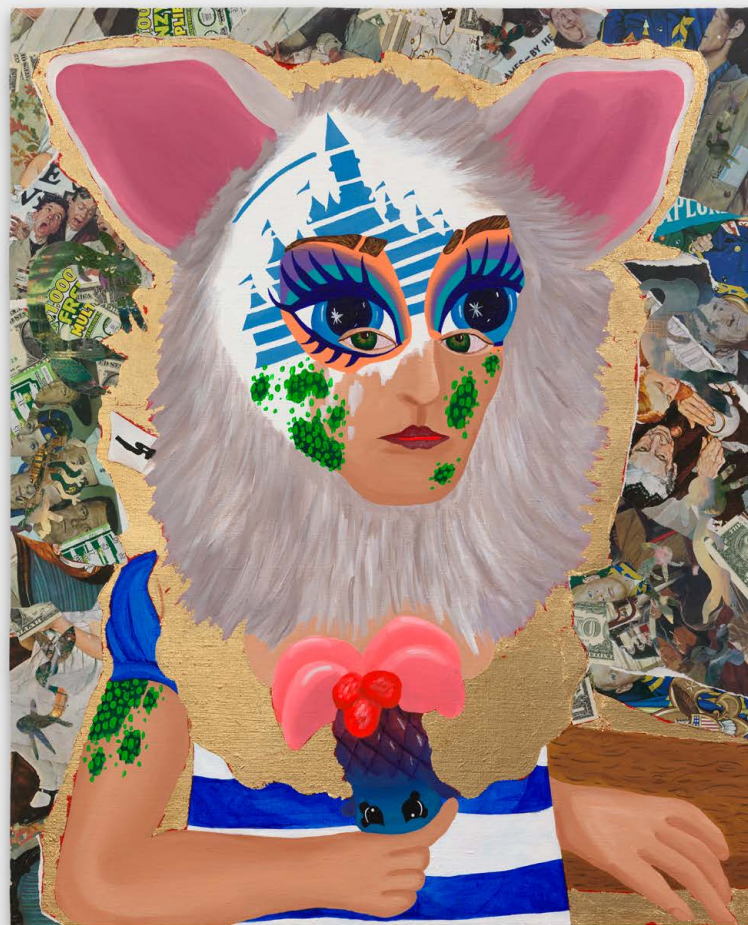
Acrylic, gold leaf, dollar bills, lottery  
tickets and Norman Rockwell print, and  
Thomas Kinkadee prints on linen

83.8 x 68.6 x 3.8 cm

33 x 27 x 1 1/2 in

(SCIES00025)

USD 6,000.00 (exl. VAT)















**The Ashamed Girls Ponies: Motherhood (Rome is Burning), 2022**

*Acrylic and gold leaf on canvas*

200.7 x 119.4 cm/ 79 x 47 in

USD 12,000.00 (exl. VAT)







*Girl with Doll*

2022

3Acrylic and pink foil on linen

73.7 x 101.6 x 3.8 cm

29 x 40 x 1 1/2 in

(SCIES00029)

USD 7,500.00 (exl. VAT)











*Rusalka (Freedom from Want)*

2020

Acrylic, gold leaf, fake currency, dollar  
bills, fortune cookie fortunes, lottery  
tickets and Norman Rockwell Poster on linen

83.8 x 76.2 x 3.8 cm

33 x 30 x 1 1/2 in

(SCIES00027)

USD 6,000.00 (exl. VAT)









Installation view of National Portrait Gallery, London, UK





***Baby with Kenny Face Paint***

2021

Colored pencil, acrylic paint, Elmer's  
glue, Modge Podge, and glitter on paper

35.6 x 27.9 cm

14 x 11 in

(SCIES00035)

USD 1,500.00 (exl. VAT)



***Ashamed Girls Pony #7 (OG Bobby  
Dolphin Riding a Purple Unicorn)***

2021

Colored pencil, sequins, plastic gems,  
acrylic paint, Elmer's glue, Modge Podge,  
and glitter on paper

35.6 x 27.9 cm

14 x 11 in

(SCIES00032)

USD 1,500.00 (exl. VAT)

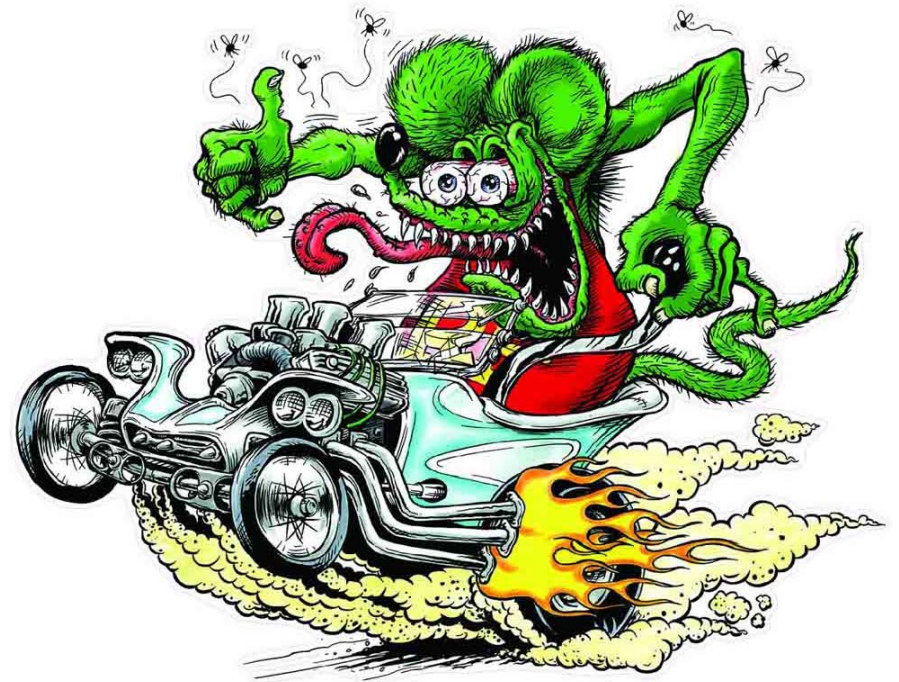








# Barbie™



**On the left-up:** Barbie Logo

**On the right-up:** Rat Fink, Hot Wheels Decal

**Left-down (from left to right):** Screenshot from Mars Attack, directed by Tim Burton, 1996

My Little Pony toys





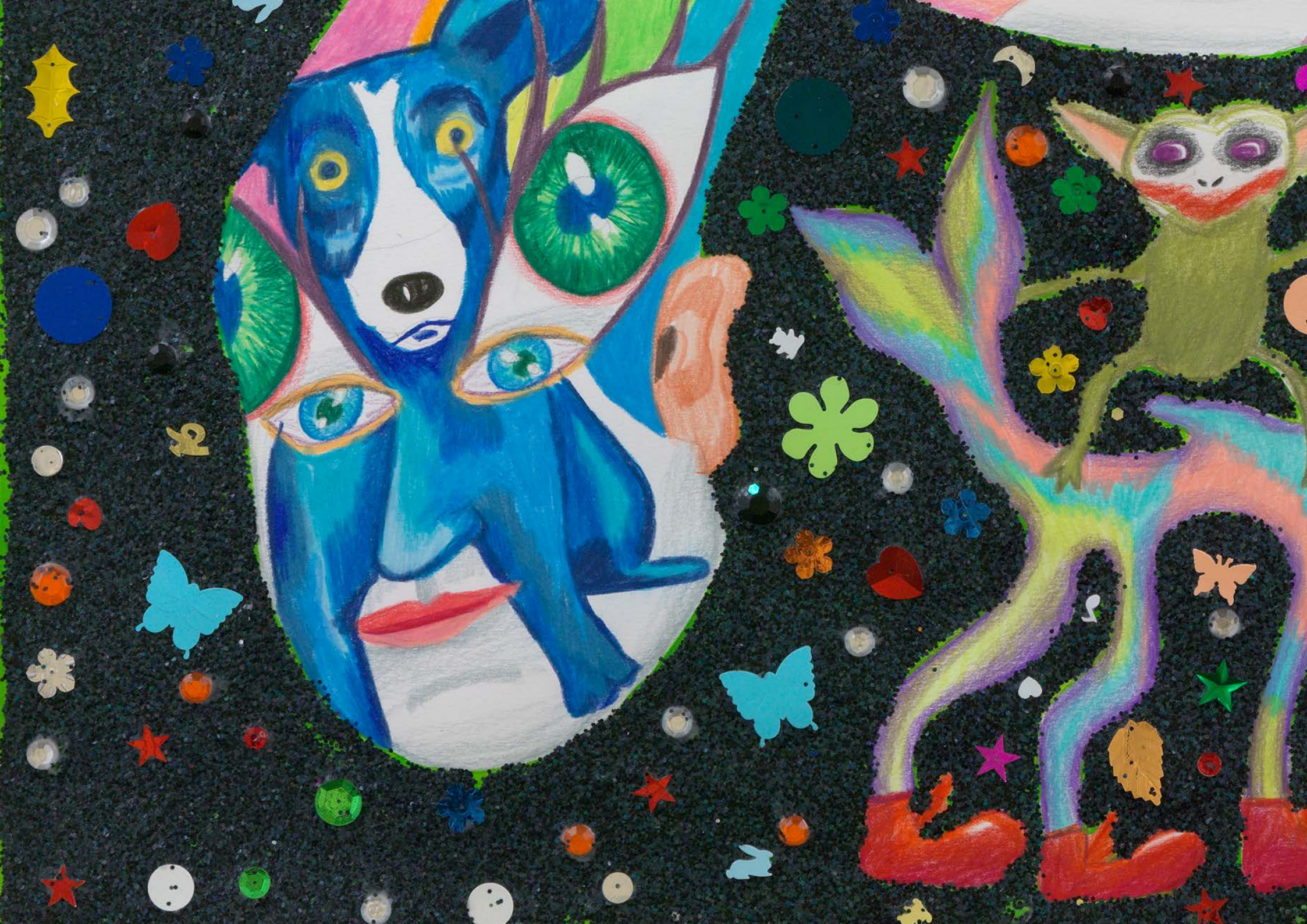
**Indigo Children with Cat and Dog Face Paint, 2021**

*Colored pencil, acrylic paint, Elmer's glue, Modge Podge,  
sequins, plastic gems, and glitter on paper*

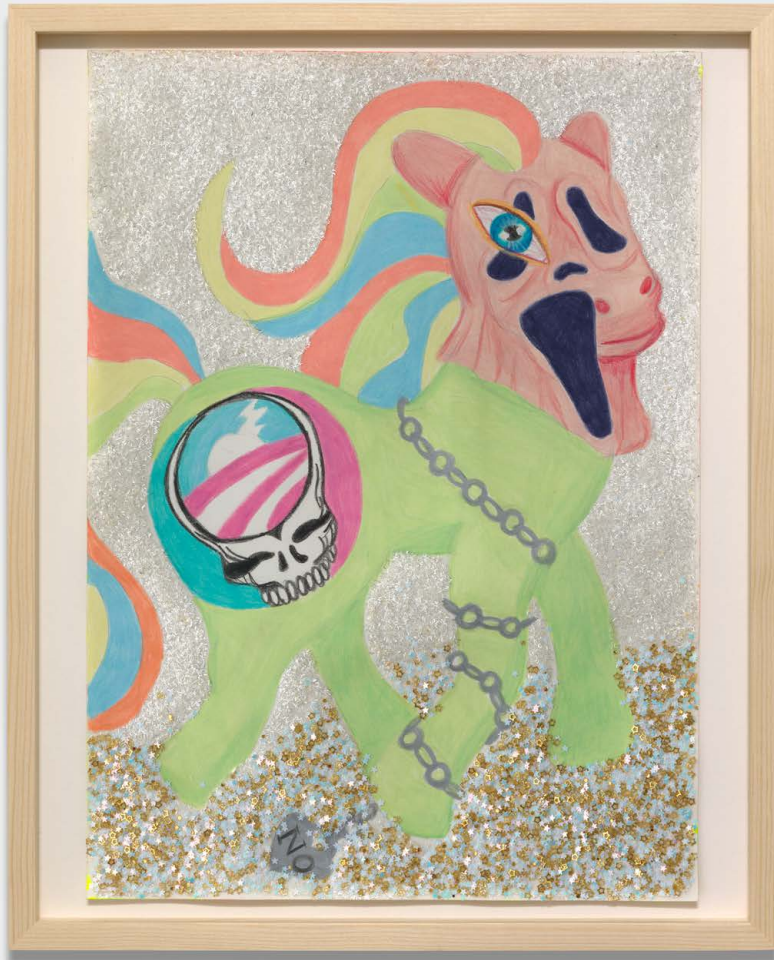
61 x 45.7 cm/ 24 x 18 in

USD 2,400.00 (exl. VAT)









***Ashamed Girls Pony***

2022

Colored pencil, acrylic paint, Elmer's  
glue, Modge Podge, and glitter on paper

35.6 x 25.4 cm

14 x 10 in

(SCIES00034)

USD 1,500.00 (exl. VAT)





**Stabbed by Flags, 2021**

*Colored pencil, acrylic paint, and gold  
leaf on paper*

66 x 101.6 cm/26 x 40 in

USD 4,000.00 (exl. VAT)







Born 1989 in Detroit, MI, USA / Lives and works in Detroit, MI, USA

#### SELECTED SOLO AND PARTNER EXHIBITIONS

##### **2022**

The Flesh Failures, Galerie Maria Bernheim, Zürich  
Conspiracy Influencer, MPAC, Troy, NY (upcoming)  
Cruising: The Tale of Gaslighting the Girl Boss  
to Gate Keep on the High Seas with Old Put and  
Friends, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Wayne State  
University, Detroit (upcoming)

##### **2020**

Old Put Acquire-it Network, Larrie, New York  
(online)  
The Peaceable Kingdom, Stems Gallery, Brussels,  
Belgium

##### **2019**

Secret Honor, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta,  
Georgia, USA  
One Arm Bandit, AALA, Los Angeles, CA, USA  
Fighting History with Lightning, MOCAD, Detroit,  
MI, USA (Curated by Pat Elifritz for Unboxing:  
Doublespeak)  
The Truth Remains that No One Wants to Knows,  
Larrie, New York, NY, USA

##### **2018**

Daughters of the Toy Box, Larrie, New York, NY, USA  
Soul Dolphin, What Pipeline hosted by Park View, Los

Angeles, CA, USA

##### **2017**

The Feather Mantle, Freddy, Harris, NY, USA  
FATEBE x OLDPUT, Galerie Maria Bernheim,  
Zurich, Switzerland  
Shrine of Venus, What Pipeline, Detroit, MI,  
USA, with Valerie Keane.

##### **2016**

Brown Study, Plymouth Rock, Zürich, CH  
God Gives Us Food, Cornerstore Gallery,  
Chicago, IL, USA (with Jenn Smith)  
All The Brown Butterflies, Essex Flowers, New  
York, NY, USA

##### **2015**

All The Brown Butterflies, Cave, Detroit, MI

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

##### **2021**

Double Life / Flayed Beings / Hidden  
Counterparts, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago  
Paul Nudd's Purple Mayonnaisery, Western  
Exhibitions, Chicago  
Body Double, Galerie Maria Bernheim, London,  
UK

##### **2020**

Show Me the Signs, Blum and Poe, Los Angeles  
(Benefit for The African American Policy Forum



Say Her Name Mother's Network)  
Six Degrees of Separation, Liebaerts Project,  
Kortrijk, Belgium  
Warmth and Promise, Rachel Uffner, New York  
9 Hour Interludes, Studio Angelico at Siena  
Heights University, Adrian, MI (Curated by Jes  
Allie, Richard Haley, Trisha Holt, and Jennifer  
Junkermeier-Khan)  
Strange Days: Hit Pause, White Columns, New York  
(Curated by Jackie Klempay)

## 2019

Cruise Kidman Kubrick, Galerie Maria Bernheim,  
Zurich, Switzerland (Curated by Mitchell Anderson)  
Daily Rush / Daata Editions, Museum of  
Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, MI, USA  
New Image Portrait, Stems Gallery, Brussels,  
Belgium (Curated by Todd Kramer)  
Into the Pit, Zurich University of the Arts  
(Nest), Zurich, Switzerland

## 2018

Foundation for Contemporary Arts 2018 Benefit  
EXhibition, Gladstone Gallery, New York, NY, USA  
(Curated by Adam McEwen)  
Room after Room, Spring / Break Art Show, curated  
by Sam Strand and Emily Davidson, NY, USA  
Summer of Love, The Green Gallery, Milwaukee, WI,  
USA  
Documenting Reality, Kunsthalle Wichita, Wichita,  
KS, USA  
Annex at M+B, curated by Jay Ezra Nayssan, Los  
Angeles, CA, USA  
PreFab/Post-Fab: Art in a Ready Made Era, curated

by Amanda Kugliak and Lucy Cahill, The University  
of Michigan Institute for the Humanities, Ann  
Arbor, MI, USA

## 2017

A Spaghetti Dress for World Peace, Park View,  
Los Angeles, CA, USA  
In Paper We Trust, The Dot Project, London,  
England  
Mom... Dad... I'm Getting a Dog, Bahamas Biennale  
Mukwonago, Wisconsin, USA  
Hope, New Scenario, curated by Paul Barsch &  
Tilman Hornig, Dresden, Germany  
Sinister Feminism, A.I.R. Gallery, curated by  
Piper Marshall and Lola Kramer Brooklyn, NY, USA

## 2016

Monster Mash, Vicki Projects, Newburgh, NY, USA  
5th Feelings Film Festival, curated by Adam  
Levett and Chloe Wise for Pop Montreal, Montreal,  
Canada  
Re:Re:Re:, Re:Art Show, curated by Erin Davis  
and Max C.Lee, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
Under the Volcano, LOMEX, New York, NY, USA  
God Gives Us Food, Cornerstore Gallery, Chicago,  
IL, USA  
Ever Get the Feeling We're Not Alone in this  
World?, What Pipeline, Detroit, MI, USA  
15 Steps - Perspectives in Drawing, curated by  
Tylonn Sawyer, RBHOA, Detroit, MI, USA  
Mutiny in Heaven, First Continent, curated by  
Valerie Keane, Baltimore, MD, USA

## 2015



The People's Biennial, curated by Valerie Keane,  
Long Island City, NY, USA  
Feelings Film Festival II, curated by Chloe Wise  
and Adam Levett, Anthology Film Archives, New York,  
NY, USA  
E.S.P. TV, curated by Nicola Kuperus and Adam  
Lee Miller, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit,  
Detroit, MI, USA  
A Form is a Social Gatherer, Plymouth Rock,  
Zürich, CH  
BSLA X Bobby Jesus, Bedstuy Love Affair and  
Tomorrow Gallery, New York, NY, USA

## **2014**

Video Center, The N'Namdi Center, Detroit, MI, USA  
(curated by Michaela Mosher for Dlectricity)  
American Basketry, Bedstuy Love Affair, curated by  
Jared Madere, Brooklyn, New York, NY, USA  
The Smile Face Museum, curated by Adrienne  
Garbini, Brooklyn, New York, NY, USA

## **2013**

Framing Space/Narrating Place, curated by  
Christine Osinski, Leeds College of Art, West  
Yorkshire, UK

## **2012**

Pollygrind Film Festival, Las Vegas, NV  
New Filmmakers New York, Anthology Film Archives, New  
York, NY, USA

## **2011**

Videoart.net Video Art and Experimental Film  
Festival, Tribeca Cinemas, NY, NY, USA

## **2009**

Brown, The Cooper Union, New York, NY (with  
Valerie Keane and Emilie Gossiaux)

## **2012**

Pollygrind Film Festival, Las Vegas, NV  
New Filmmakers New York, Anthology Film Archives,  
New York, NY, USA

## PERFORMANCES

## **2020**

"The Tragic Mirror," Zoom puppet show, Elaine L.  
Jacobs Gallery at Wayne State, Detroit, December  
17, 2020

"The Old Put Players Present Rusalka," Zoom  
Puppet Show for "9 Hour Interludes" at Studio  
Angelico at Siena Heights University, Adrian,  
MI, October 22, 2020

"The Phantom Menace Syndrome," Zoom puppet show,  
Stems, Detroit to Brussels, July 2020

## **2019**

"Old Put Signs Podcast Video Headshots in  
Hollywood, Baby," AALA, Los Angeles, 1 June 2019  
"Old Put Taps out of Depression at a Pizza  
Parlor", Scarr's Pizza with Larrie, New York,  
January 6, 2019

## **2018**

"Old Put Betsy Ross," University of Michigan  
Institute for the Humanities, Ann Arbor, MI,  
January 18, 2018

## **2017**



"More Heart Than Brains," Galerie Maria Bernheim, Zürich, June 10-11, 2017  
"Thirsty Olde Pitre," 13th St. Theatre, New York, March 8, 2017 (Curated by Nick Faust for Act Up)  
"The Soft Side of Hardcore," A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, January 28, 2017 (Curated by Lola Kramer and Piper Marshall)

## **2016**

"Harvest Time Dismemberies," Paris Internationale, Paris, October 19, 2016  
"Heritage Bloodbath," Bahamas Biennial, Detroit, July 22-23, 2016  
"The Soft Side of Hardcore," What Pipeline presented at Giovanna's Bar, Detroit, July 1, 2016  
"The Soft Side of Hardcore," Plymouth Rock presented at A La Luna Bar, Zürich, May 20, 2016  
"The Soft Side of Hardcore," New Art Dealers Association, New York, May 7, 2016

## **2014**

"All The Brown Butterflies," PuppetArt Theatre Laboratory, Detroit, October 18, 2014

## LECTURES/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Visiting artist for performance class taught by Scott Northrup at College for Creative Studies, Detroit, September 22, 2020  
"Daata 10 x 10," Instagram Live artist talk with David Gryn, Instagram, July 22, 2020  
Visiting artist for "The Contemporary Art World" class taught by Clayton Press at New York

University, May 6, 2020  
"MOCAD Discusses Digital," Soho House, Chicago, September 20, 2019  
"Family Day Surrealist Face Painting with Old Put," Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, June 15, 2019  
"Artist Talk: Bailey Scieszka," Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, May 11, 2019  
"TALK Bailey Scieszka," Center for Creative Studies, Detroit, February 8, 2018  
"Old Put Crafts: Pinecone Dolls," What Pipeline, Detroit, June 24, 2017

## AWARDS/GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS

2014 - PuppetArt Theatre Laboratory, The PuppetArt Theatre, Detroit, MI, USA

2010 - The Benjamin Menschel Foundation Grant, The Cooper Union, New York, NY, USA

## PUBLICATION

Scieszka, Bailey, Clayton Press and Kat Herriman. More Heart Than Brains; The Collected Plays of Bailey Scieszka, (What Pipeline, Detroit, 2018.)

## EDUCATION

2011 BFA The Cooper Union, New York, NY



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