



G.B. Jones

Organized by Kunstverein Toronto

in collaboration with D St-Amour

August 6-September 10, 2022

Opening Reception and artist book signing: Aug. 6, 5-7pm

G.B. Jones is recognized for many accomplishments: for the success of her post-punk band *Fifth Column* (1981-2002), the widespread influence of the many queer punk zines she co-authored, including *J.D.s*, *Double Bill* and *Hide*, her coining of the term “queercore,” and her prolific work as a “no-budget” filmmaker, scene photographer and visual artist. Her drawing series, “Tom Girls,” originally published in *J.D.s*, replaced Tom of Finland’s iconic, “hyper-virile studs” with bold, uncompromising leather dykes, co-opting Finland’s objectified, male-on-male erotica and presenting a world of “nasty female role models.”¹

In 1994, Feature Inc. and the publishing imprint Instituting Contemporary Idea in New York released *G.B. Jones*, a monograph, edited and designed by Steve Lafreniere compiled Jones’ “Tom Girls” drawings alongside show and film posters, record covers, comics and commissioned writing. As part of a campaign by the Canadian Border Services agency against allegedly pornographic or immoral materials in the 1990s, copies of Jones’ book were seized by the Canada Border Services Agency and barred from entering the country on the charge of depicting “bondage.” Jones was later informed that the seized copies had been burned by Border Control agents.

Twenty-seven years later, in collaboration with Jones, Kunstverein Toronto is putting *G.B. Jones* back in circulation in Canada. A re-publication of the book will launch on August 6 at Cooper Cole alongside an exhibition of related drawings, photographs, posters, ephemera and tributes that reflect the reach and influence of Jones’ heterogenous practice, both at the time of the original release of *G.B. Jones*, and today.

G.B. Jones (b. 1965 Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada) is an artist, filmmaker, musician, and publisher of zines. Jones’ drawings first received notoriety when published in the

¹ “Dodie Bellamy on G.B. Jones’s Nasty Female Role Models” *Frieze* Issue 200, Jan 9, 2019



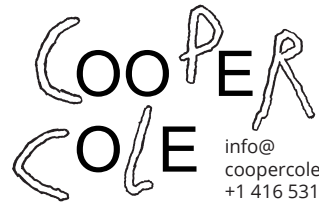
Toronto-based queer punk zine *J.D.s* that she ran with Bruce LaBruce. Her prolific drawing series *Tom Girls* is widely recognized, and reimagines Tom of Finland's drawings by replacing all the hyper-masculine subjects with women, subverting the intent into a contribution to third-wave feminist art. In 2002, Jones began a series of collaborative collages with Paul P., many of which were published in the book *A Queer Anthology of Rage*. Jones' spray-painted images of Ionian columns— one of which is permanently installed at Cooper Cole— references her post-punk band *Fifth Column* (1981–2002) and suggests the weaving together of her music and drawing practice.

Jones has exhibited her art nationally and internationally since the early 1990s, in spaces such as Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus; Participant Inc., New York; Mercer Union, Toronto; The Power Plant, Toronto; Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna; White Columns, New York; AKA Artist Run Space, Winnipeg; Muncher Kunstverein, Munich; and Schwules Museum, Berlin. She was included in the 2012 exhibition *This Will Have Been: Art, Love, and Politics in the 1990s*, which was curated by Helen Molesworth for the MCA Chicago and subsequently travelled to the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, and the ICA Philadelphia. She has also exhibited at national and international galleries including David Zwirner, New York; Cooper Cole, Toronto; Paul Petro Contemporary Art, Toronto; Feature, New York; Galerie Clark, Montreal; and Or Gallery, Vancouver. G.B. Jones lives and works in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Kunstverein Toronto is a curatorial and publishing platform operating alongside its partners in Amsterdam, Aughtim, Milan and New York. Moveable in both time and space, Kunstverein Toronto is dedicated to experimentation, discussion and hospitality in art, exhibition and publication practices. Fundamentally, Kunstverein Toronto seeks to foster exchange between local and international conversations, contexts and generations. Kunstverein Toronto was founded in 2014 by Kara Hamilton and Kari Cwynar. We program in dialogue with a local advisory board as well as an international group of artists, curators, thinkers and enthusiasts.

D St-Amour is a writer, curator and book maker currently located in Tio'tia:ke - Mooniyang (Montreal).





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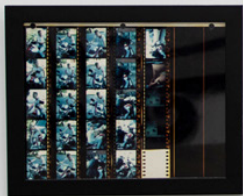
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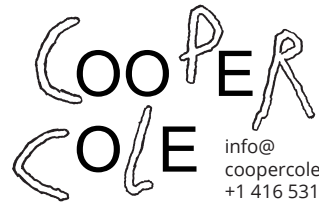


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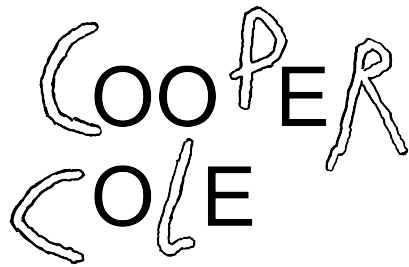
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VITRINE 1:

L-R

Special issue of *DOUBLE BILL*, issue 3, spray painted stencil cover on diaper by Johnny Noxzema.

DOUBLE BILL, 1991-2001

Published by Jena von Brücker, G.B. Jones, Johnny Noxzema, Caroline Azar, Rex and Diesel Méchante.

Contributors included Anonymous Boy, Vaginal Davis (*Shrimp*), Gary Fembot (*Fembot*), Kevin Joy (*Zines Are Stupid*), Jeffery Kennedy, Robert Kirby, Lois Maffeo, Bart Plantenga, Lisa Suckdog (*Rollerderby*) and Scott Treleaven (*This Is The Salvation Army*).

HIDE, 1981-1985

Published by Caroline Azar and Candy Parker, who were later joined by G.B. Jones. Contributors included: Adrian, Anita S., Candy P., Caroline A., Caroline S., David Gregory, David Keyes, Eric Fitz, Gloria B., Graham Duncan, Jack F., Janet M., John, Jim, J.P., K.R., M.D, M.E.D., Merrimac Von Amway, Micheal, Midi O., Mirjam, Myra Nuvo, Patrick C., Patrick Gregory, Sarah P., Scott Party, T.D.

Motorcycle Girls T-Shirt, 1990

Made by G.B. Jones and Johnny Noxzema for SPEW Zine Conference, Chicago

Spread from *G.B. Jones*, 1994 (original book)

WALL 1:

L-R

7-11, graphite on paper, 1990

The Power and the Glory: a survey of drawings 1985-2005, exhibition poster, 2005

Contact sheet (motorcycle girl), 1980s

The Shape of Things to Come!, Fifth Column T-Shirt, 1987

Jack Chick vs. The Tom Girls #1, graphite on paper, 1994

Jack Chick vs The Tom Girls #2, graphite on paper, 1994

Jack Chick vs The Tom Girls #3, graphite on paper, 1994

(top row)

Klaus von Brücker, silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1990

David Finlay and Bruce LaBruce, silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1987

Leslie Mah, silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1985

Jena von Brücker, silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1989

Dave-id (David Gravelle), silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1986

Fan of A.S.F., silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1985

Laura McDougall and Donna Dresch, 1987

Dave-id (David Gravelle) and Bruce LaBruce, silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1987

Cizzy Che (Celina Carroll), Bruce LaBruce, Suzy Sinatra (Suzy Richter) and Dave-id (David Gravelle), 1988

Mean Jean, Cizzy Che (Celina Carroll), Suzy Richter and Amanda, 1988

(upper right corner)

On the set of the Fifth Column video "Where Are They Now?" with Caroline Azar, director Marc de Guerre and Geoffrey Shea, silver gelatin print, 1986

(middle row)

Untitled, silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1983

Parliament Street, silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1987

Untitled, silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1987

Girls who are fans of Sailor Moon, graphite on paper, 1996

(bottom)

Skateboard Girl (Jean), graphite on paper, 1988

Caroline Azar, silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1985

Untitled, silver gelatin print on fibre paper, 1984

WALL 2:

L-R

G.B. Jones' drawing *Subversive Literature #4: Two Sixteen-Year-Old Girls Reading Books Seized at Canadian Customs* (1995) hanging on Dodie Bellamy's wall, 2022

Revenue Canada Customs and Excise - Notice of Detention, 1995

WALL 3:

L-R

Anita Smith with flags, digital print, 1987

Minus Smile with flags, digital print, 1987

Minus Smile #2, digital print, 1987

WALL 4:

G.B. Jones, *Broken Column*, spray paint, 2022

WALL 5:

L-R

Minus Smile #1, digital print, 1987

Anita Smith #1, digital print, 1987

Anita Smith #2, digital print, 1987

All Time Queen of the World (Fifth Column album cover), 1990

Tattoo Girls T-shirt, 1990

Made by G.B. Jones and Johnny Noxzema for SPEW Zine Conference, Chicago

Animals of Prey (Hidden Cameras album cover), 2004

Grape Lollipop, coloured pencil on paper, 2008

Mango Lollipop, coloured pencil on paper, 2008

Mint Lollipop, coloured pencil on paper, 2008

Blackberry Lollipop, coloured pencil on paper, 2008

Blueberry Lollipop, coloured pencil on paper, 2008

Cherry Lollipop, coloured pencil on paper, 2008

VITRINE 2:

Tom Girls and Fifth Column ephemera 1990s-2000s including:

Fifth Column album covers by G.B. Jones

G.B. Jones Special Sisters Socks, Japan, 1998

Brochure for G.B. Jones/Tom of Finland exhibition at Feature in 1991, with Jones' Tom Girls exhibited alongside Tom of Finland's drawings and sketches.

Hidden Cameras album cover featuring G.B. Jones' drawing Animals of Prey, 2004

Vaseline T-Shirt

Made by G.B. Jones and Will Munro for Vaseline in its last year, 2005

G.B. Jones drawing for business card for Will Munro's Vazaleen, 2000s

BASEMENT:

Contact sheet, 1980s

Contact sheet, 1980s

The Troublemakers, movie poster and trailer, 1990

The Yo-Yo Gang, movie poster and trailer, 1992

HOT DOGS, film, 2013

Filmed on Roncesvalles Avenue in 1987 on Super 8 film and completed in 2013.

This Will Fall Down, digital print, 1984