

Carnival Eyes

Nancy Davidson

7/11/12 — 8/4/12

We are not often aware of our eyes as orbs in space. We blithely go through life looking through them not at them, and rarely consider the limits of our sight line or hold our own eyes up to scrutiny. Nancy Davidson has detached a corps of eyes and put them where we can see them. They are an outsized, colorful bunch, buoyant and full of hubris. Most of all they are just full. These bulbous viewers are a spectacle of gaze filling one's field of vision.

Davidson has worked for several decades in the format of massive inflatables. At once ass-like and facial, they are distinctly curvaceous and bodily. But unlike the human body, which breaks down into concavities and bulgings, Davidson's blow-ups are completely round. Circles are, after all, among the simplest shapes recognizable as "like us" in that medium which best abstracts its characters into shapes, the animated cartoon. The Powerpuff Girls and Jessica Rabbit. Eyes and tits.

The carnival can be seen from any angle and will not yield a discernible structure or system. It is round, full and fluid. Carnivaleyes presents a human spectacle, the swell of the body. The fat lady at the circus invites us to look.

-Cat Kron, July 2012

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