

**NOON Projects
Presents**

Heaven on Earth

By Christian Rogers

**September 15 –
October 21, 2023**

Opening: September 15, 2023
6 – 9 PM

NOON Projects is honored to present *Heaven on Earth* by Christian Rogers opening on September 15th, 2023.

Heaven on Earth loudly and unabashedly explores gay pleasure, and creates a space for healing through queer joy. With a suite of paintings, drawings, and Polaroid portraits, the work creates bridges for intergenerational connection while triumphantly memorializing those lost during the AIDS epidemic. Rogers creates work that is unquestionably queer. It's made for himself and anyone who has ever been told to be *less gay* or to tone *themselves down*.

Throughout the gallery, a series of high-gloss three-dimensional paintings depict lush earthly Edens and heavenly celestial planes. The color palettes of highlighter yellows and fluorescent pinks make it possible to experience a feeling of euphoria. Hypnotic, repeating patterns serve as sacred codes for the spiritual cartography of utopic cruising parks and psychedelic journeys within. The 3D forms, sculpted from paper pulp on the painting's surfaces, resemble bodies, hills, and big top circus tents. Collaged between these forms are images of men from vintage erotica, depicting scenes from inside the bushes, solo, or from dark rooms and bath houses, all in moments of connection and rapture. Taken from the artist's personal collection of pornographic magazines published prior to the AIDS epidemic, the paintings memorialize these men, consecrated forever in horny heaven.

Accompanying the paintings are a series of sleek and meticulous drawings, created as meditative exercises, all framed in highly polished chrome that reflects the colors from the paintings and environment around them.

In the back room of the gallery are Polaroid portraits featuring superimposed dick pics of Rogers' friends and lovers enmeshed with images of cactus blooms from his garden. The lifespan of these exotic flowers is usually only one day. They merge and blend with the bodies creating amorphous carnal forms.

With rainbow bashing continuing throughout the world today, *Heaven on Earth* reminds us of the importance of storytelling between generations, a tradition that's often missing within the queer community. Rogers is here to remind us that joy, pleasure, and celebration are all acts of resistance.

NOON Projects is a gallery in Chinatown, Los Angeles. Our program showcases artists who work from the heart, with a focus on queerness, the divine, the natural world, craft, and social practices. We host an ongoing program of dinners, concerts, meditation groups, and community happenings.

We aim to create a welcoming space for artists and the community to connect and flourish. Please come by and see us – you are very welcome here.

NOON Projects
951 Chung King Road
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday to Saturday
Noon–6pm
And by Appointment

+ 1 971 341 6648
noon-projects.com
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Christian Rogers

Hot Shots Vol. 2, 2023

Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame

64 x 72 in. (162.6 x 182.9 cm)

69 1/2 x 78 in. (176.5 x 198.1 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Hot Shots Vol. 2 (Detail), 2023
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
64 x 72 in. (162.6 x 182.9 cm)
69 1/2 x 78 in. (176.5 x 198.1 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Hot Shots Vol. 2 (Detail), 2023
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
64 x 72 in. (162.6 x 182.9 cm)
69 1/2 x 78 in. (176.5 x 198.1 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
The Blue Rose, 2022
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
60 x 72 in. (152.4 x 182.9 cm)
66 x 78 in. (167.6 x 198.1 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
The Blue Rose (Detail), 2022
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
60 x 72 in. (152.4 x 182.9 cm)
66 x 78 in. (167.6 x 198.1 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
The Blue Rose (Detail), 2022
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
60 x 72 in. (152.4 x 182.9 cm)
66 x 78 in. (167.6 x 198.1 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Full Grown / Full Blown, 2023
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
40 x 30 in. (101.6 x 76.2 cm)
45 x 35 in. (114.3 x 88.9 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Full Grown / Full Blown (Detail), 2023
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
40 x 30 in. (101.6 x 76.2 cm)
45 x 35 in. (114.3 x 88.9 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Orgy at the Oasis, 2023
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
24 x 30 in. (61 x 76.2 cm)
29 x 35 1/2 in. (73.7 x 90.2 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Orgy at the Oasis (Detail), 2023
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
24 x 30 in. (61 x 76.2 cm)
29 x 35 1/2 in. (73.7 x 90.2 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Hot Sunday, 2023

Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
24 x 14 in. (61 x 35.6 cm)
28 1/2 x 28 1/2 in. (72.4 x 72.4 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Hot Sunday (Detail), 2023
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
24 x 24 in. (61 x 35.6 cm)
28 1/2 x 28 1/2 in. (72.4 x 72.4 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Hot Shots Vol. 1, 2023
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
16 x 20 in. (40.6 x 50.8 cm)
20.5 x 24 (52.1 x 61 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Hot Shots Vol. 1 (Detail), 2023
Acrylic, paper pulp, and collage on canvas in artist's frame
16 x 20 in. (40.6 x 50.8 cm)
20.5 x 24 (52.1 x 61 cm) framed





Christian Rogers
Untitled (Morning Glory), 2023
Graphite and collage on paper
13 x 15 in. (33 x 38.1 cm)
15 1/4 x 17 1/4 in. (38.7 x 43.8 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled (Orgy at the Oasis), 2023
Graphite and collage on paper
13 x 15 in. (33 x 38.1 cm)
15 1/4 x 17 1/4 in. (38.7 x 43.8 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled (Cherry Blossom), 2023
Graphite and collage on paper
13 x 15 in. (33 x 38.1 cm)
15 1/4 x 17 1/4 in. (38.7 x 43.8 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled (Sunflower), 2023
Graphite and collage on paper
15 x 13 in. (38.1 x 33 cm)
17 1/4 x 15 1/4 in. (43.8 x 38.7 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled (Toad Cactus), 2023
Graphite and collage on paper
13 x 15 in. (33 x 38.1 cm)
15 1/4 x 17 1/4 in. (38.7 x 43.8 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled (Large Sunflower), 2023
Graphite and collage on paper
15 x 13 in. (38.1 x 33 cm)
17 1/4 x 15 1/4 in. (43.8 x 38.7 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled (Cosmic Gathering), 2023
Graphite and collage on paper
13 x 15 in. (33 x 38.1 cm)
15 1/4 x 17 1/4 in. (38.7 x 43.8 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled (Tulip), 2023
Graphite and collage on paper
15 x 13 in. (38.1 x 33 cm)
17 1/4 x 15 1/4 in. (43.8 x 38.7 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled (Hot Shots), 2023
Graphite and collage on paper
13 x 15 in. (33 x 38.1 cm)
15 1/4 x 17 1/4 in. (38.7 x 43.8 cm) framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled (Space), 2023
Graphite and collage on paper
13 x 15 in. (33 x 38.1 cm)
15 1/4 x 17 1/4 in. (38.7 x 43.8 cm) framed





Christian Rogers
Untitled 1, 2023
Polaroid photograph
4.25 x 3.5 inches
11.25 x 10.25 framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled 2, 2023
Polaroid photograph
4.25 x 3.5 inches
11.25 x 10.25 framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled 3, 2023
Polaroid photograph
4.25 x 3.5 inches
11.25 x 10.25 framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled 4, 2023
Polaroid photograph
4.25 x 3.5 inches
11.25 x 10.25 framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled 5, 2023
Polaroid photograph
4.25 x 3.5 inches
11.25 x 10.25 framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled 6, 2023
Polaroid photograph
4.25 x 3.5 inches
11.25 x 10.25 framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled 7, 2023
Polaroid photograph
4.25 x 3.5 inches
11.25 x 10.25 framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled 8, 2023
Polaroid photograph
4.25 x 3.5 inches
11.25 x 10.25 framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled 9, 2023
Polaroid photograph
4.25 x 3.5 inches
11.25 x 10.25 framed



Christian Rogers
Untitled 10, 2023
Polaroid photograph
4.25 x 3.5 inches
11.25 x 10.25 framed

Biography
Christian Rogers



Christian Rogers (born 1986, Portland, Oregon) uses paint, collage, and sculpted surfaces to explore themes of unabashed queer love, lust, and joy. Half grounded in reality, the other half in fantasy, Christian depicts Garden of Eden-like landscapes where endless visual and visceral titillation take place. Men wander the vast floral playground looking for fun, taking part in the liberation and the nitrite rush of queer romance. Sculpted forms bubble from the surface, resembling the curves of a pectoral muscle or chiseled bicep, and over the bodily shapes, layers of fluorescent paint function like skin. The collaged men in the paintings are found objects sourced from vintage porn, included in the mise en scène as a means of preserving our collective queer history. While being vessels of desire, the men represent a way of remembering and memorializing our forefathers who came before us—many of whom lost their lives to HIV/AIDS during the height of the crisis. Christian's paintings are at once an incandescent manifestation of queer bliss, an act of historical reclamation, and an illustration of the erotic utopia of which he dreams.

Christian was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. He received his BFA from Western Oregon University and his Master's from Hunter College in New York City. Christian has been living and working in Los Angeles since 2017.

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CV
Christian Rogers

Born Portland, Oregon
Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

Education

2017 MFA, Hunter College, New York
2010 BFA, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon

Solo Exhibitions

2023 *Haven on Earth*, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, CA
2016 *Read It and Weep*, Nationale, Portland, OR
2013 *Good Boy, Bad Habits*, Stumptown, Portland, OR
2012 *Rules of Chance: Forgiving a Creative Path*, Salem Arts Association, Salem, OR
2011 *Oh Hi, Thank Heavens You're Here*, Stumptown, Portland, OR
2010 *I Am Not Comfortable With Us*, Gloss Gallery, Portland, OR

Group Exhibitions

2022 *Curly Hair / Hot Metal*, Nationale, Portland, OR
Sirkus, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, CA
2021 *Eric Hibit Presents*, Studio Archive Project, Online
2019 *Human-Nature*, Tiger Strikes Astroid, New York, NY
2018 *Eight Emerging Artists*, Steven Zavitas, Boston, MA
Thick On The Ground, Nationale, Portland, OR
Indian summer, Disturb The Neighbors, New York, NY
2017 *Hunter MFA Thesis*, 205 Hudson Gallery, New York, NY
All in a Day's Work, Galerie Protégé, New York, NY
2016 *NSFW*, Galerie Protégé, New York, NY
2013 *The Right Hemisphere*, Miller Gallery, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
2012 *200 or Less*, Victory Gallery, Portland, OR
2011 *The Right Hemisphere*, Miller Gallery, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
Emerge, Mary Lou Zeek Gallery, Salem, OR
The Suburban Challenge; Beyond the City Limits to the Burbs, Salem Arts Association, Salem, OR
Smoke & Mirrors, University of North Dakota, ND
2009 *Recent Oregon Graduates*, Blackish Galley, Portland, OR
Life, Love, Lust, Neil Warner University Center, Monmouth, OR

Grants

2016 Kossak Travel Grant Recipient, Hunter College

Media

2023 "ARTMATTERS: The Podcast for Artists," July 13
2022 "Art Review: Christian Rodgers & Shohei Takasaki at Nationale," Oregon Artwatch, August 8
2021 "The Closet Space," podcast, December 20
2019 "THEDOGGOINGBARKAYOU: An Interstate Exchange of Outsider Art," cultbytes
2018 "MFA Annual," New American Paintings, Issue #135

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NOON Projects is pleased to present “Heaven on Earth,” a solo exhibition of works by Christian Rogers opening September 15, 2023.

In his paintings, drawings, and photographs, Rogers constructs fantasias of queer joy through the gauzy, layered patina of vintage porn and its textured materiality. Vision and touch are thoroughly intertwined in the sexy solicitations of his hunky figures embedded in a vibrant landscape of cactus blooms, a landscape that Rogers has provocatively likened to the winding pathways of a cruising ground and its visual language of a subtle look or gesture.

Rogers translates the virtual mode of our contemporary engagement with erotic content through screens back into the material substrate of paper. These pictures invite their beholders to reorient their unconscious gestures across the glass surfaces of their phones—pinching, zooming, swiping—back into the world of flesh and blood. Most of these gestures can be traced back to techniques developed by illustrators in the pages of early magazines to solicit touch with seductive advertising. In Rogers’ pictures, old and new media—vintage porn and Grindr dudes—rub up against one another in a kind of scrapbooked palimpsest, one whose temporally vertiginous quality is telegraphed through the cinematic sparkle of a James Bidgood mise-en-scene crossed with the hallucinatory color palette of a Lisa Frank lunchbox.

Rogers’ paintings seem to formalize a kind of queer sensibility by cutting across the boundaries between painting and sculpture. A frame sculpted out of paper pulp and painted so that it is materially continuous with the rest of the picture challenges the traditional binary division between a picture and its frame, between what is “inside” and “outside” of the work: it is more pizza crust than parergon. Vivid planes of color coincide with the underlying substrate of magazine clippings and paper pulp that juts out from the surface in pulsating planes of low relief that mirror the pictorial projections of the ass up, big-dicked hunks in his lovingly curated collection of smut.

But if the naked men in Rogers’ pictures offer, despite their diminutive scale, the most titillating subject matter, they are dwarfed by the flowers in which they seem to float and frolic like fairies or horny satyrs on ancient Greek vases. Like many other flowers, cactus blossoms are bisexual, possessing both male and female sex organs. As art historian Alison Syme has shown, the “hermaphroditic” subjectivity of flora offered artists at the turn of the twentieth century such as John Singer Sargent a way to queer the poetics of painting (Sargent himself likened the act of painting to hand-pollination). Rogers pushes this secret history into the present and out in the open. Like the kind of intergenerational queer friendships he often cites as his inspiration, Rogers’ pictures offer a reparative vision of queer joy that is—and this might be the most shocking thing of all about them—not timeless but historical.

Patrick R. Crowley

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