

NOON Projects Presents

Love Solver

By Matt Lifson

December 15 –
January 27, 2023

Opening: December 15, 2023
6 – 9 PM

NOON Projects is honored to present “Love Solver,” a solo exhibition of works by Matt Lifson and the artist’s second exhibition with the gallery, opening December 15, 2023.

There is something disquieting about Matt Lifson’s new body of work. The subject matter of his paintings, drawn freely from art and life, slasher films and gay porn, hovers in an uncanny zone between pain and pleasure, horror and horniness. Here we find documentary stills featuring an old lover who took his own life, a young girl possessed by a demon, a carnivorous bird plucked from Hieronymus Bosch’s Garden of Earthly Delights, heavy cocks, mind-controlling parasites, a fatal gender reveal, the teenage homosociality of vampires, and the punishment-cum-frisson of a good spanking.

Lifson wants us to look, and to look hard, at this hallucinatory mix of psychosexual imagery. But to stop at the iconography of the paintings, alluring as it is, would be to miss the tremendous complexity of their mediality that activates the images for the beholder. In several of his works, Lifson draws with wax pastels over polyester fabric stretched a short distance above a painting beneath executed in oil on canvas like a layered palimpsest. The optical effect of this simple technique, which is almost impossible to register photographically, evokes a kind of phantasmagoria in which images alternately dissolve and resolve depending on the standpoint of a mobile viewer. Like the open-weave fabric of theatrical scrims invented around the turn of the nineteenth century, Lifson’s polyester screens at once construct and collapse distinctions between surface and depth, visibility and invisibility. They are almost concrete materializations of what Jacques Lacan called an “image screen” where the subject-as-viewer becomes the subject-as-viewed. As Hal Foster observes, “Traditionally in Western philosophy, tropes like ‘veils’ and ‘screens’ figure as blinds that obscure truth, illusions that mystify reality: we are supposed to shed them...In Lacan, on the contrary, the screen is a necessary protection without which we are at the mercy of the real.”

Drawn to the elusive or fugitive image—the kaleidoscopic montage, or entoptic phenomena like retinal afterimages produced by an external stimulus—Lifson pushes his paint to the almost impressionistic brink of illegibility. In a sequence of four paintings whose frames, both actual and virtual, comprise the durational continuity of a single second of a porn that had been rerecorded several times over, oil paint translates the visual artifacts of the interlaced scan lines of video. Evoking the dystopian neon hues and gauzy feel of an old VHS tape, Lifson’s picture registers what Jacques Derrida describes as the latent spectrality of any media archaeology: “Contrary to what we might believe, the experience of ghosts is not tied to a bygone historical period, like the landscape of Scottish manors, etc., but on the contrary, is accentuated, accelerated, by modern technologies like film, television, the telephone. These technologies inhabit, as it were, a phantom structure. ...When the very first perception of an image is linked to a structure of reproduction, then we are dealing with the realm of phantoms.” A similar kind of “phantom structure” haunts the background of Lifson’s paintings through the overlapping texture of queer temporalities in a rhythmic play of anachronisms that models what counts as lived experience.

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.

Patrick R. Crowley

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
info@noon-projects.com

NOON



Matt Lifson
Night (fade out), 2023
Wax pastel, polyester and oil on canvas in wood frame
61 x 158 in. (154.9 x 401.3 cm)
(diptych)



Matt Lifson
Night (fade out), 2023
Wax pastel, polyester and oil on canvas in wood frame
61 x 158 in. (154.9 x 401.3 cm)
(diptych)



Matt Lifson
Night (fade out) (Detail), 2023
Wax pastel, polyester and oil on canvas in wood frame
61 x 158 in. (154.9 x 401.3 cm)
(diptych)



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Night (fade out) (Detail), 2023
Wax pastel, polyester and oil on canvas in wood frame
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Matt Lifson
Morning (whiffs hanging in the air), 2023
Wax pastel, polyester and oil on canvas in wood frame
61 x 79 in. (154.9 x 200.7 cm)



Matt Lifson
***Morning (whiffs hanging in the air)*, 2023**
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61 x 79 in. (154.9 x 200.7 cm)



Matt Lifson
Morning (whiffs hanging in the air (Detail), 2023
Wax pastel, polyester and oil on canvas in wood frame
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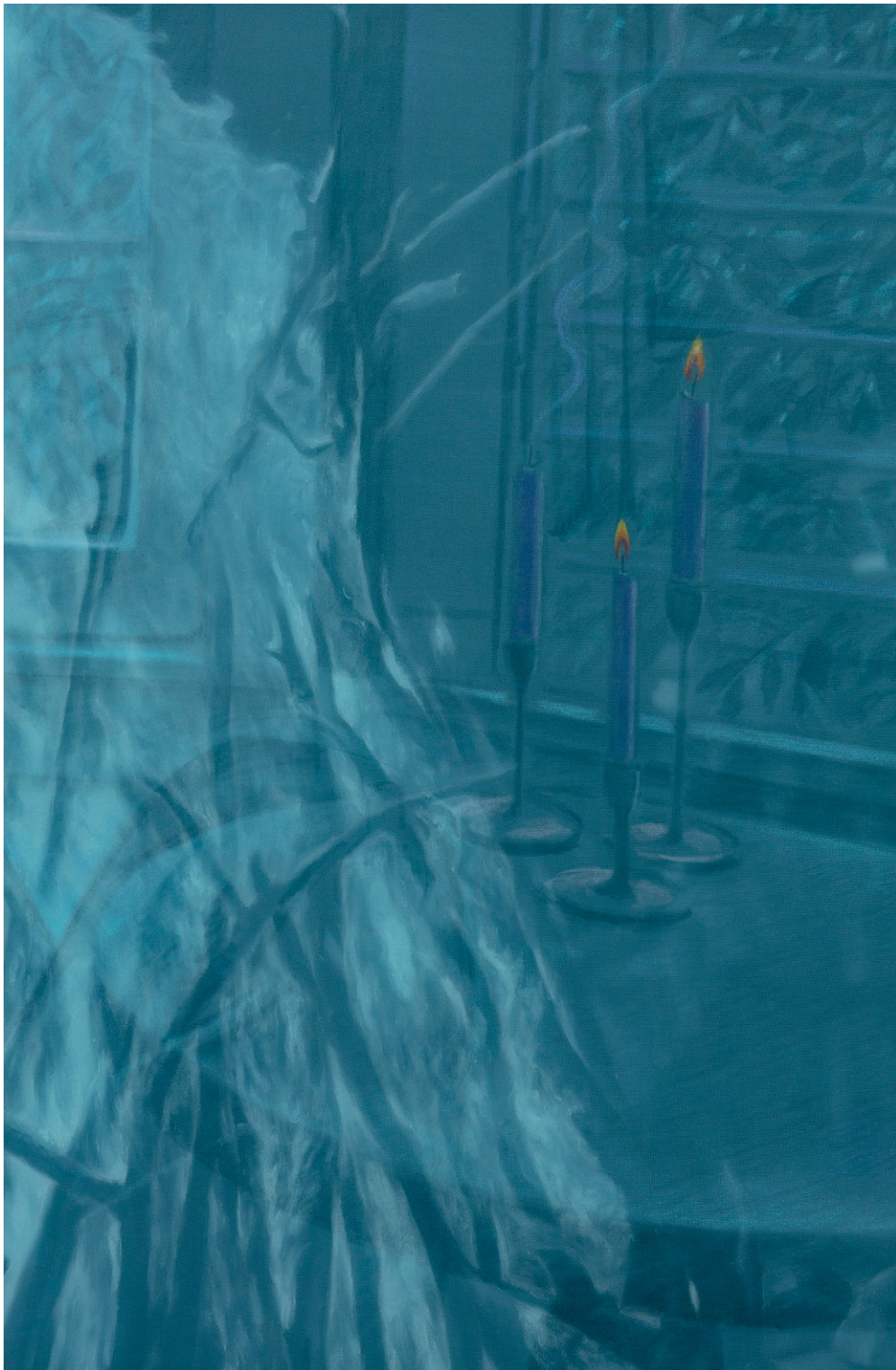
Matt Lifson
Morning (whiffs hanging in the air (Detail), 2023
Wax pastel, polyester and oil on canvas in wood frame
61 x 79 in. (154.9 x 200.7 cm)



Matt Lifson
Evening (after Bosch and Chagall), 2023
Wax pastel, polyester and oil on canvas in wood frame
61 x 45 in. (154.9 x 114.3 cm)



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Matt Lifson
Evening (after Bosch and Chagall) (Detail), 2023
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Matt Lifson
Evening (after Bosch and Chagall) (Detail), 2023
Wax pastel, polyester and oil on canvas in wood frame
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Matt Lifson
1:43-1:44, 2023
Oil on linen in wood frame
12 x 77 in. (30.5 x 195.6 cm)



Matt Lifson
1:43-1:44 (Detail), 2023
Oil on linen in wood frame
12 x 77 in. (30.5 x 195.6 cm)



Matt Lifson
00:31, 2023
Oil on linen in wood frame
11 x 19 in. (27.9 x 48.3 cm)



Matt Lifson
1:45, 2023
Oil on linen in wood frame
11 x 19 in. (27.9 x 48.3 cm)



Matt Lifson
Brian and Hazel, 2023
Oil on linen in wood frame
17 x 13 in. (43.2 x 33 cm)



Matt Lifson
Dan and Alice, 2023
Oil on linen in wood frame
9 x 14 in. (22.9 x 35.6 cm)

Biography Matt Lifson



Matt Lifson (born 1985) is a painter who's work investigates the relationship between lived and borrowed experiences in regards to queer identity. His studio practice employs a range of techniques, from the immediacy of impressionist mark making to the slow dissolve of layering contradictory images, evocative of early surrealism. Although referential to tableaux of the erotic, Lifson aims to excavate a deeper humanity within figures engaged in provocative compositions, exploring his own personal narrative while critiquing myths of queer relationships created by societal sensationalisms. His work has been exhibited internationally, including solo exhibitions at ACME, as well as Angles Gallery (Los Angeles). He completed the Master of Fine Arts degree at Otis College of Art & Design (BFA, School of Visual Arts, New York). A native of New York, Lifson lives and works in Los Angeles.

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CV
Matt Lifson

Born 1985 in New York, NY
Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

Education

MFA, Otis College of Art & Design, Los Angeles, CA
BFA, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY

Solo Exhibitions

2023 *Love Solver*, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, CA
2022 *Fade In*, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, CA
2018 *How is your fever?*, CB1 Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2016 *Part 2*, ACME, Los Angeles, CA
2015 *The Snakes, That Remain*, ACME, Los Angeles, CA
2013 *Hidden Tracks*, Angles Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2012 *Smoke and Mirrors*, Bolsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2010 *Wanderlust*, Ursa Minor Gallery, Seattle, WA

Group Exhibitions

2023 *Room With A View*, Vardan Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
California Sober, The Floating Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2022 *Group Show*, Eve Leibe Gallery, London, UK
2021 *Funhouse*, RDFA, Los Angeles, CA
2020 *Heaven and Hell*, Tom of Finland Foundation, Los Angeles, CA
2 DAY SHOW, LSH CoLab, Los Angeles, CA
2019 *Wanderers*, Tile Blush, Miami, FL
Flat Earth Society, Big Pictures LA, Los Angeles, CA
2018 *The Therapist's Office*, 1969 Gallery, New York, NY
2017 *Hot Time, Summer in The City*, CB1 Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2016 *Whatever Forever*, C.A.M Gallery, Istanbul, TR
2015 *Queertopia. It Takes A Village*, Galerie Kornfeld, Berlin, DE
And There Is An End, Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, CA
Bloody Red Sun of Fantastic LA, PIASA, Paris, FR
And There Is An End 2, James Harris Gallery, Seattle, WA
2014 *Person Place or Thing*, 68 Projects, Berlin, DE
Art Los Angeles Contemporary, Angles Gallery, Los Angeles
Summer Show, Angles Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2013 *Art Platform Los Angeles*, Angles Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
5 New Artists On The Map, California Heritage Museum, Los Angeles, CA
New, Now Next..., Angles Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Sublimated, Boston Court Performing Arts Center, Pasadena
The Dorian Project, Ana Christea Gallery, New York, NY
2012 *It Ain't Over Yet*, K.O.P. Gallery, Breda, NL
Yes, and..., Bolsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Imagine, C.A.M. Gallery, Istanbul TR
2011 *Contemporary Art Fair*, C.A.M Gallery, Istanbul TR
Ego Busters, C.A.M. Gallery, Istanbul TR
GLAMFA, CSU Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
2010 *The Art That Dare Not Speak Its Name*, CB1 Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Troll, Envoy Enterprises, New York, NY
Figurative Deployment, 2010, Vera Project, Seattle, WA
2009 *Rose Garden Benefit*, C.A.M. Gallery, Istanbul, TR
2008 *FRESH*, C.A.M Gallery, Istanbul, TR
2007 *Summer Show*, Yale University, Norfolk, CT
Prime Time, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
Body Modification, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
Portraits Reconsidered, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY

Bibliography

- “Editorial: Recommendations”, Review by Genie Davis, Visual Art Source. (illustrated) web.<http://www.visualartsource.com/index.php?page=editorial&p-cl-D=26&aID=4481>. February 2018
- “The Surreal Fever Dreams of Matt Lifson”. Review by Emily Nimptsch, Riot Material. (illustrated) web. <http://www.riotmaterial.com/surreal-fever-dreams-of-matt-lifson/>. January 2018
- “Sleep With Me And A Ghost”. Artist Monograph, published by Hesse Press. 64 pages (illustrated) print. October 2016
- “Hearts Desire: Matt Lifson at ACME”. Review by Nicole Borgenicht, Beverly Hills Times Magazine, (illustrated) print. June 2015
- “Bloody Red Sun of Fantastic L.A.” Exhibition Catalogue, published by PIASA, (illustrated) print. November 2015
- “Matt Lifson’s Paintings Pregnant With Possibilities”. Review by Christopher Knight, Los Angeles Times. (illustrated) web. <http://articles.latimes.com/2013/dec/05/entertainment/la-et-cm-review-matt-lifson-angles-20131204>. December 2013
- “Continued and Recommended”. Review by Jody Zellen, Art Scene Magazine, (illustrated) print. October 2013
- “The Dorian Project”. Exhibition Catalogue by Quang Bao, (illustrated) print. August 2012
- “An Uncomfortable Environment: Interview with Matt Lifson”. Interviewed by Kyle Raymond Fitzpatrick, Los Angeles I’m Yours (illustrated) web. <http://laimyours.com/7842/an-uncomfortable-environment-an-interview-with-matt-lifson/>. January 2012
- “An Artistic Look at the Ego”. Today’s Zaman, (illustrated) web. <http://www.istanbulitemag.com/2011/02/artistic-look-at-ego-at-cam-gallery.html>. February 2011
- “The Art That Dare Not Speak Its Name”. Review by Sharon Mizota, Los Angeles Times, (illustrated) web. <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/culturemonster/2010/07/art-review-the-art-that-dare-not-speak-its-name-at-cb1-gallery.html>. July 2010

Awards/Honors

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2013 | Rema Hort Mann Foundation YoYoYo Grant Recipient |
| 2013 | Rema Hort Mann Emerging Artist Grant Nominee |
| 2011 | Governor’s Tuition Grant, Otis College of Art & Design, Los Angeles, CA |
| 2011 | Roy Dowell Fellowship, Otis College of Art & Design, Los Angeles, CA |
| 2010 | Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant Nominee |
| 2004 | Sillas H. Rhodes Scholarship, School of Visual Arts, NY |