

Ptolemy

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Abby Lloyd

On Display

May 22–June 15, 2025

Opening Reception: May 22, 2025, 6:00–8:00 PM

Glendale, NY, 5/22/25: Growing up in Massachusetts, I never got to try Jack in the Box until I was visiting a friend in LA in my mid-20s, but its heavy presence in 90s and early-2000s culture had already left memorable impressions throughout my childhood despite the chain's lack of regional presence.

Each side of the two-faced head of Abby Lloyd's *Jack* bears a resemblance to Jack Box, the corporate mascot and "CEO" of Jack in the Box, and for many, an initial engagement with the work might conjure a memory of the character. Still, some differences are notable: The color scheme (along with the 3D eyes and mouth and pom-pom hat) might bring to mind a snowman; the faux-marble finish implies a massive physical presence that is betrayed by the ease with which the foam body can be moved.

Jack seems to have burst from his box more in the style of Alice outgrowing the Rabbit's house than the traditional spring-loaded wind-up toy, with his arms and legs comfortably outstretched from the sides of his cubic body. As his gaze drifts around the gallery in nonstop rotation, it occasionally falls onto two additional works: *It's fun*, an acrylic-on-canvas reproduction of a comic-strip drawing made by Lloyd's aunt Nancy in the 1960s; and *Smiley Face*, an enlarged pendant from a charm bracelet rendered in metallic painted foam. The former work serves as a continuation of Lloyd's 2019 exhibition at Freddy, *Abby's Room*, in which she paired a series of her own *Shy Girl* doll sculptures with several of Nancy's original drawings.

As Jack's head waxes and wanes atop its barber's pole neck, the three works rest in quiet harmony with one another—sometimes melancholy, sometimes comforting. Lloyd's work utilizes common materials sourced from local craft stores and chains that are increasingly buckling under contemporary financial pressures, such as the recently-bankrupt Joann Fabrics, which is closing the remainder of its stores at the end of this month. The works themselves have been inspired by, among other things, the artist's recent experience of clearing out her childhood home.

Jack's perpetual motion forces us to confront the passage of time—but it also invites you to spend some of it sitting and thinking.

Pat Reynolds

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Abby Lloyd is an artist and curator based in New York, working in sculpture, performance, video, and installation. Her work utilizes humor and common materials to explore themes of loss, memory, and the emotional charge of objects.

Lloyd's recent solo exhibitions include *Goodbye Dolly* at Alyssa Davis Gallery, New York, NY, and *Abby's Room* at Freddy, Harris, NY.

In 2024, she organized a series of events and exhibitions, including *Artists & Recipes* at Marvin Gardens in Ridgewood, Queens, based on her 2020 cookbook of the same title featuring over 40 artists. In 2025, she was an artist-in-residence at The Church in Sag Harbor, NY.

She will be performing in *The Pigeon Impersonation Pageant* on the High Line, New York, NY, on June 14 and participating in the exhibition *School's Out* at Ten Barn Farm, opening July 5, organized by The Macedonia Institute in Ghent, NY.