JULIAN-JAKOB KNEER FANATICS II

14.06. - 26.07.2025

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BLUE VELVET at Villa Nomad Talstrsasse 37, 8001 Zurich

14 June – 26 July 2025

Blue Velvet is excited to present FANATICS II by Julian-Jakob Kneer.

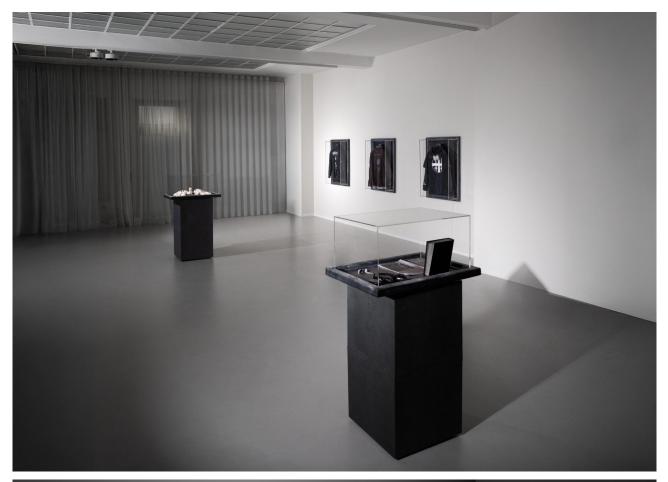
In FANATICS II, Julian–Jakob Kneer stages a series of vitrines that function as both shrines and crime scenes — repositories of cultural residue where pop relics are transformed into charged evidence. These forensically and meticulously presented displays house devotional objects drawn from fandom memorabilia, moral panic, kitsch, and controversy. Disney plush meets black metal merch; Precious Moments objects bear the marks of ideological defilement.

Kneer collapses supposedly opposing mythologies — childhood and cult, innocence and transgression, nostalgia and propaganda — revealing that their shared architectures are not just parallel but structurally aligned and mutually dependent. Meaning is not fixed; it is performed, warped, and reshaped by context. By aestheticizing contradiction, Kneer refuses the binaries of morality and immorality, letting ideological ambiguity speak for itself.

Each vitrine invites projection, discomfort, and desire — an associative zone where emotional legibility begins to blur. His clinically stark displays paradoxically heighten, rather than neutralize, the emotional and symbolic charge of these artifacts, compelling viewers toward active, critical engagement. Here, pop culture becomes pathology, mass-produced sentiment gets weaponized, and the sacred is always, just barely, unholy. FANATICS is not a warning, nor a celebration — but an ambient exposure of destabilized belief systems.

— Laurie Rojas

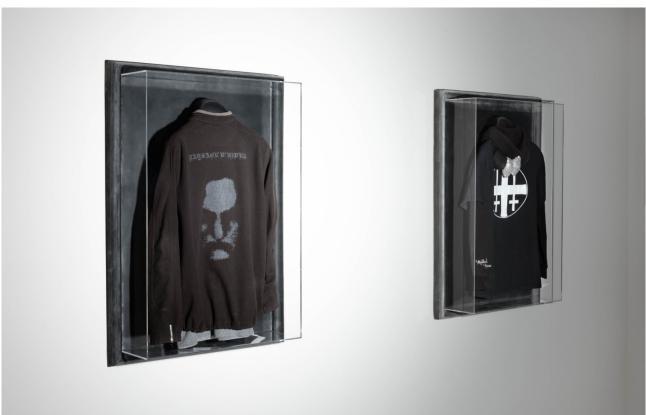
A collaborative performance by British choreographer and musician BLACKHAINE and Julian-Jakob Kneer was presented during the private preview reception of FANATICS II. Our sincere thanks go to the Eigenmann Collection for their generous support in making the evening possible.





Julian-Jakob Kneer: FANATICS II, Blue Velvet at Villa Nomad, Zurich, Switzerland, 2025.





Julian-Jakob Kneer: FANATICS II, Blue Velvet at Villa Nomad, Zurich, Switzerland, 2025.





 $\label{eq:Julian-Jakob Kneer} \mbox{FANATIC (2), 2025}$ Archival Misanthropy Records hoodie, Philipp Plein x Disney t-shirt, cast rubber and acrylic glas vitrine $106\times76\times22\mbox{ cm}$





 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Julian-Jakob Kneer} \\ \text{FANATIC (6), 2025} \\ \text{Archival Paysage d'Hiver fleece jacket, Laibach tie pin, Precious Moments t-shirt,} \\ \text{cast rubber and acrilyc glas vitrine} \\ 106 \times 76 \times 22 \text{ cm} \end{array}$



Julian-Jakob Kneer
FANATIC (7), 2025
Archival Deathlike Silence Productions t-shirt, Minnie Mouse hoodie,
cast rubber and acrylic glas vitrine
106 x 76 x 22 cm





 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Julian-Jakob Kneer} \\ \textbf{FANATIC (4), 2025} \\ \textbf{Archival gloves and Precious Moments figurine, cast rubber and acrylic glas vitrine} \\ \textbf{76} \times 54 \times 35 \text{ cm} \end{array}$





Julian-Jakob Kneer
FANATIC (8), 2025
Archival Satanic Bible, WWJD bracelet, Disneyland Tokyo headband, archival Peter Sotos PURE #1 zine, cast rubber and acrylic glas vitrine
76 x 54 x 35 cm

JULIAN-JAKOB KNEER

*Basel CH, lives and works between Paris and Berlin.

Through crossbreeding ready-made opposing narratives, Kneer's practice riffs on themes of morality and the narcissistic self. Sifting contemporary zeitgeist artifacts through the lens of ancient lore, and inexorably returning to the foundational principles of the human psyche, he digs up and confronts our conceptions of supposed sociocultural binaries such as right / wrong, beautiful / ugly, sick / healthy. Kneer breaks them down into their constituent parts, and releases them for recasting in a value-free queer space.

Education

2012-19 Universität der Künste, Berlin – fine arts / Meisterschüler Prof. Monica Bonvicini

Solo Exhibitions (selection)

2025	FANATICS III, SCHLACHTER151, Berlin DE (upcoming) FANATICS II (w/ performance in collab w/ BLACKHAINE, Blue Velvet at Villa Nomad, Zurich CH BASTARDS SALON, Basel CH FANATICS, intr.pblc, Copenhagen DK
	DOLLY, CON_Gallery, Tokyo JP (w/ Fritz Schiffers, Lukas Stöver)
2024	GOODIE TWO SHOES, Arcane 57, Paris FR
	BASTARDS (SHADOW WORKERS), Galleri Golsa, Oslo NW
	PRODIGY, Kunsthalle Kosiče SK
2023	BASTARDS (BELIEVERS), Censorship Bureau, Stockholm SE
	BASTARDS (CAREGIVERS), Blue Velvet, Zurich CH
	BASTARDS (SHOWROOM), G. H. B. Düsseldorf DE
	SHOOTING STAR: ENCORE, Miettinen Collection, Berlin DE
2022	BASTARDS (NEVERLAND), Shore Gallery, Vienna AT SHOOTING STAR (curated by Pierre-Alexandre Mateos and Charles Teyssou),
2022	Blue Velvet, Zurich CH
2021	Solo, brunand brunand gallery, Berlin DE
	Solo booth w/ shore gallery, Liste Art Fair Basel CH
	HIGH-RISE BERLIN, Schinkel Pavillon (online)
2020	Solo booth w/ shore gallery, Liste Showtime (online)
2019	Ever After, shore gallery, Vienna AT
	Frottage, Limbo, Berlin DE
	ornament sublime, Lucas Hirsch, Düsseldorf DE
2018	wicked games, ROOM E-10 27 at Center, Berlin DE
	Jugend ist Trunkenheit ohne Wein, BIKINI, Basel CH
2017	sub rosa, 1.1, Basel CH
	Ushirode, Geddert Hronjec Collection, Berlin DE
	rule#34, Webresidenz @ www.oslo10.ch (in collab. w/ Blue Stork)
	International blood drinker, Gärtnergasse, Vienna AT (w/ Clémence de La Tour du Pin)

Group Exhibitions (selection)

2025	Miettinen Collection at Kunsthalle Helsinki FIN (upcoming) Group Show, Monom Berlin DE (upcoming) Group Show curated by BARRAGÁN, Carlye Packer, Los Angeles US (upcoming) Group Show curated by Haus N, Berlin DE / Athens GR (upcoming) GRUPPE SCREENING (w/ SIMON DENNY, YNGVE HOLEN, JASPER SPICERO), Julia Stoschek Foundation Berlin DE Art Genève with Blue Velvet CH
2024	The falconer, Council+, Berlin DE RIZZ/MAXX'24 (curated by Erik Nordenhake), Dorothée Nilsson Gallery, Berlin DE
2023 2022	NADA New York 2023 with Blue Velvet Projects Vunu Institute, Kosiče, SK Corpse Bride, Art Basel Miami Beach US
2021	Screening, Soho House, Berlin DE Reference Festival, Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin DE And then, when I sleep, L'Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles BE TRUE ROMANCE — Julian-Jakob Kneer, Adam Martin, Bunny Rogers, Yves Scherer,
	Shore gallery, Vienna AT RATS, Number1Mainroad, Berlin DE Nectar, inter.pblc, Copenhagen SE Impatience of the Future, Spitalgasse (shore x Zeller Van Almsick), Vienna AT
2020	The Fairest, Blake and Vargas, Berlin DE Situation 1 und andere, Kunsthalle Basel CH Constellation, shore gallery, Vienna AT
2019	NC-Austria, online art fair w/ shore gallery benefit auctions: SLLS, Jeschke Van Vliet Auktionen, Berlin DE; PART, VAN HAM, Hamburg DE ASPFair 6, online art fair organized by Dan Mitchell and ICA London Z Series, Vienna Contemporary, Vienna AT Z Series, Vienna Contemporary, Vienna AT Office Greenhouse, Berlin DE Walking in Ice, Hua International, Berlin DE Art Düsseldorf w/ Lucas Hirsch Gallery, Düsseldorf DE Karl-Hofer-Stipendium (shortlist, won), Universität der Künste, Berlin DE 3hd / Creamcake, Postbank-Hochhaus, Berlin DE Tending Towards, AMOQA, Athens GR Cold Prey, Lubov Gallery, New York US Teen Ranch, Main Street, Toronto CA L'amour, Fetisch-Hof, Berlin DE In-visible Realness, PS120, Berlin DE
2018	Cloak of Mercy, Horse & Pony, Berlin DE Gentle Heterodoxy — Social Body and its Enchantments, fffriedrich, Frankfurt am Main, DE

2025	Nomination Vontobel Contemporary, Zurich CH
2024	Kunstkredit Basel-Stadt
2023	Nomination Ars Viva, Berlin DE, Erasmus+ and Stage Monde mentorship-program; Stiftung Kunstfonds
2022	studio-program BBK Berlin; Stiftung Kunstfonds (Neustart); Stiftung Spiegelberger
2021	ProHelvetia
2020	Senatsverwaltung Berlin; Kunsthalle Basel (Patronagefonds); studio program BBK
2019	Karl-Hofer-Stipendium; Swiss Embassy Berlin; Kulturbeirat Charlottenburg- Wilmersdorf; DOMS Stiftung
2018	GGG Kulturkick; Gwärtler Stiftung; DOMS Stiftung; Fondation Collatrice
2014	Fondation Collatrice

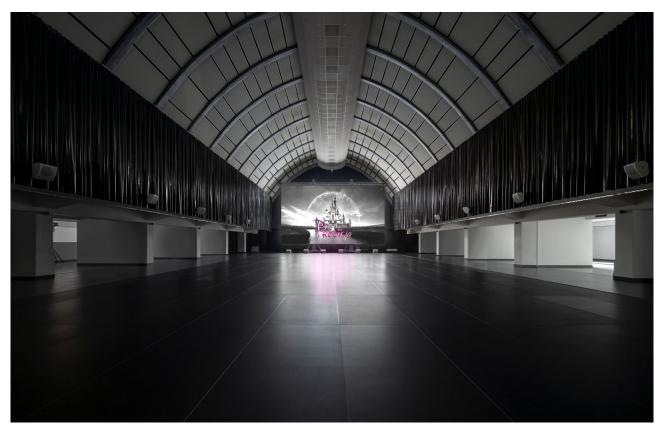
Special projects

2018–25	GRUPPE magazine 1–6: co–founder, creative direction and art curation (ongoing)
2025	BLADEE: CD Martyr WorldTour 25
2025	BARRAGÁN: collaboration (upcoming)
2024	HAIL SPECTRUM, sold out fundraising project for FIAS
2024	GATA: BASTARDmix II for online radio
2024	P.L.N.: various collaborations
2024	endonesia: BASTARDmix for online radio
2022	BALENCIAGA: various collaboratio

Press (selection)

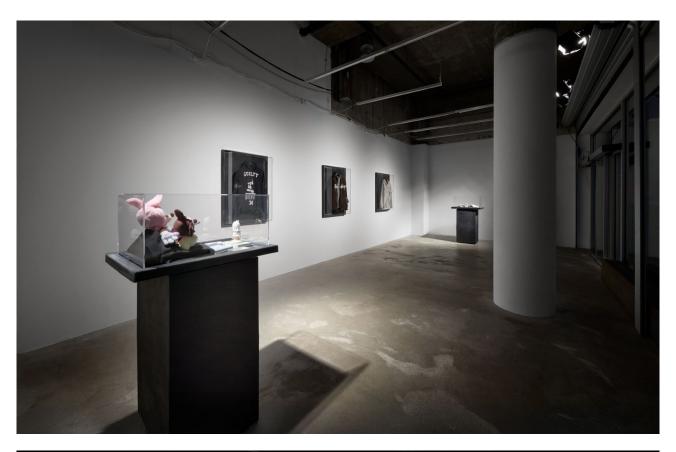
2025	STUDIO magazine 10, contribution and edition, print
2024	COVERSTORY, coeval Magazine, issue 0, print
	Flash Art CZ review by Štefi Ďuricová
	COVERSTORY, Arcane Issue 3
	Julian-Jakob Kneers BASTARDRY, OFLUXO
	carcy Magazine, conversation and profile by / with Pierre-Alexandre Mateos MOUSSE Magazine
2023	Julian-Jakob Kneer and his BASTARDS: Adam Lehrer for STUDIO MAGAZINE, print
	COVERSTORY, Gruppe Issue 5, print
	MOUSSE Magazine
2022	BEHIND THE MASK: Q&A with Julian-Jakob Kneer, GATA Magazine
	COVERSTORY, das wetter 28, print
	Julian-Jakob Kneer — First Time Offenders, Nele Ruckelshausen for Flaunt Magazine
	Lose Yourself: Julian- Jakob Kneer SHOOTING STAR, Samuel Staples for PW-Magazine
	Artnet News
2021	KALEIDOSCOPE Portrait: Julian-Jakob Kneer — Cheerful Nihilism, Allan Gardner
	print and online
	Total Work of Art: Julian-Jakob Kneer, Samuel Staples for Berlin Art Link
2020	DEATH IS THE MARTYR OF BEAUTY, Laurie Rojas for CæSURA
2019	Seductions, SPIKE Art Magazine Issue 61, print
2010	Die Ruinen der Dekadenz, Dennis Brzek for Passe Avant
2018	SLEEK, Gallery Weekend Berlin Highlights
2010	oleten, odnery weekend berintringringrits

PAST EXHIBITIONS (Selection)



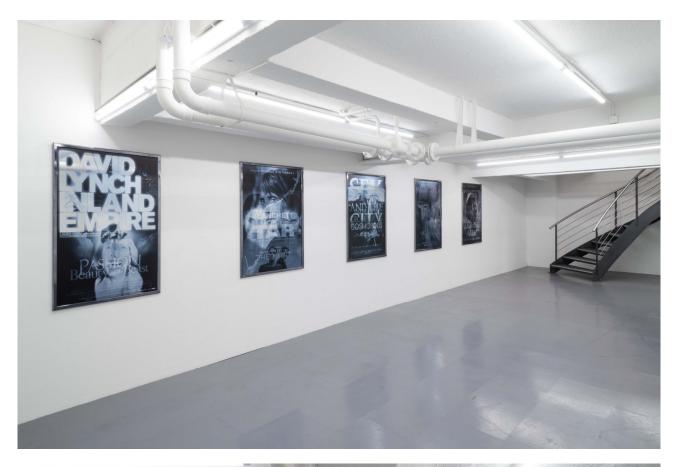


Julian-Jakob Kneer: PRODIGY, Kunsthalle Košice, Košice, Slovakia, 2025 curated By Pierre Alexandre Mateos & Charles Teyssou





Julian-Jakob Kneer: FANATICS I, inter.pblc, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2025





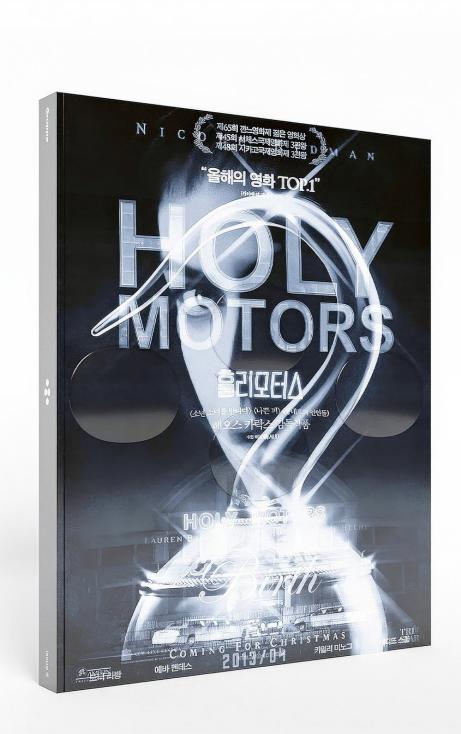
Julian-Jakob Kneer: BASTARDS (CAREGIVERS), Blue Velvet, Zurich, Switzerland, 2023

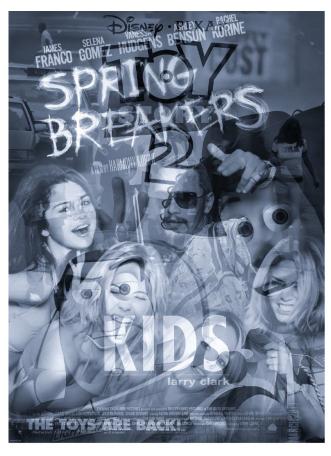




Julian-Jakob Kneer: SHOOTING STAR Zurich, Switzerland, 2022. curated By Pierre Alexandre Mateos & Charles Teyssou

PUBLICATIONS (Selection)





Text by Adam Lehrer

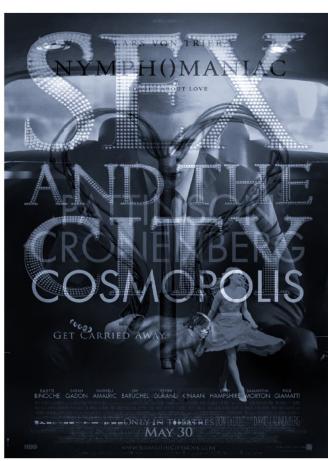
was this my own projection? It is in this ambiguity that art art comes so powerful and mennigful, is in the nor?

I comes so powerful and mennigful, is into not?

I comes so powerful and mennigful, is into not?

I come to have the comes of the comes

"A wise girl knows her limits. a smart girl knows that she has none," said Monroe. "Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring. If I'd observed all the rules, I'd never have gotten anywhere."



Julian-Jakob Kneer and his BASTARDS, Adam Lehrer for STUDIO magazine 6, print and online, 2023