

Matthew Marks is pleased to announce *Magic Ben Big Boy: Lutz Bacher, Nayland Blake, Vincent Fecteau*, the next exhibition in his gallery at 526 West 22nd Street.

Conceived by Vincent Fecteau, the exhibition centers on a re-creation of the artist's first one-person show, "Ben," originally presented twenty-five years ago at Kiki, a short-lived but influential artist-run gallery in San Francisco's Mission District. The title "Ben" comes from a 1972 movie and its theme song of the same name, sung by Michael Jackson. A love song from a boy to his pet rat, it became a #1 hit single and was nominated for an Academy Award. The works in the exhibition include collages of found photographs of cats, sculptures made from old shoeboxes, and eggshells painted to look like eyes.

Two important works made in San Francisco a few years earlier by Nayland Blake and Lutz Bacher are installed in the adjacent galleries. Bacher's sculpture *Big Boy* (1992) replicates an anatomically detailed stuffed doll, like those used in child-abuse assessments, but expands it to larger than human size. Blake's *Magic* (1990–91) is an assemblage featuring Madame, the puppet star of Wayland Flowers's 1980s sitcom *Madame's Place*. At the time of "Ben," Fecteau was working as an assistant in Blake's studio. "*Magic* is one of my favorite pieces from that period of Nayland's work," says Fecteau. "Nayland also introduced me to Lutz when she approached him about finding someone to help fabricate *Big Boy*." Fecteau worked on Bacher's sculpture in his bedroom for several months before it was finished with help from a costume designer for the San Francisco Opera.

Lutz Bacher lives and works in New York. Bacher's work has been the subject of one-person museum exhibitions in Düsseldorf, Vienna, and New York, and has been included in three Whitney Biennials.

Nayland Blake (b.1960) lives and works in New York. Blake's work has been the subject of one-person museum exhibitions in San Francisco, Houston, and New York, and been included in the Whitney Biennial and the Venice Biennale. In September the most comprehensive survey of Blake's work to date will open at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Vincent Fecteau (b.1969) lives and works in San Francisco. Fecteau's work has been the subject of several one-person museum exhibitions, most recently in Vienna and Basel, and has been included in the Carnegie International and two Whitney Biennials. In 2016 Fecteau was awarded a MacArthur prize.

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