

Joey Gonnella | *Love Will Return in a Different Way*

Opening Reception on Thursday, July 9, 2026, from 6–8pm
On view July 9 - August 22, 2026

In 1924, during the last year of his life, Franz Kafka encountered a little girl in a Berlin park who was inconsolable after losing her favorite doll. Kafka began writing and reciting letters to the little girl “from the doll” who had “gone on a trip to see the world”. This exchange culminated in Kafka gifting her a new doll with a note explaining that the doll’s travels had “changed her” and that she was, in fact, her lost doll. Years later, the now-grown woman found tucked inside the doll a tiny piece of paper that read “Everything you love in life is very likely to be lost, but in the end, love will return in a different way.”

A box suspended by a pulley in the sky containing Harry Houdini, Atreyu from the 1984 film *The NeverEnding Story* — snow in his hair — gazing beyond the picture plane into a scrying mirror, the constellation Canis Major— its stars made up of lab-grown diamonds, Salomon August Andrée, a 19th century explorer looking out at his collapsing hot air balloon that now rests on Arctic ice, a fragment of a Clyfford Still painting frozen in time.

The philosopher Edmund Burke wrote in 1757 that he believed the concept of infinity could just as likely be found in a tiny seashell as in a vast landscape. He also reasoned that beauty was rarely associated with grand and large objects, but almost always met with the words “tiny” or “little” (a beautiful little thing). I was thinking of Burke when I began making these small drawings one year ago, especially when embedding some of them with diamonds. I wanted the associations connected to diamonds, such as love, beauty, and the idea of “forever,” to be embedded in them as well.

This show is a selection from a series of over 200 drawings that orbit themes of love, loss, and little histories that risk obliteration. These drawings take their reference from images I want to preserve — to bring them back from their time, to return them to now. They serve both as warnings and reminders that losses occur, things forever change, but beauty and love return.

– Joey Gonnella

Joey Gonnella (b. Boston, MA, 1997) is a New York City-based artist whose practice centers on works on paper that explore a personal relationship to the history of images. Drawing from a private archive of found imagery and art historical references, his research-based works form constellations of meaning — connecting disparate elements of the past with the present. Gonnella received his BFA in Visual and Critical Studies from the School of Visual Arts in 2020 and his MFA from Hunter College in 2024. His work has been exhibited in New York City at Charles Moffett Gallery, Rain Rain Gallery, Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery, and Parent Company. He is also an adjunct professor at the School of Visual Arts.

Parent Company is a non-profit artist-run exhibition space founded in 2023 by Ada Potter. The project seeks to support artists through exhibition opportunities, public programs, and events.