

bottom floor
Curated by Max Maslansky



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Charlie James Gallery is delighted to present “bottom floor”, a group show curated by Max Maslansky. Works by Nora Berman, William Crawford, Roger Herman, Whitney Hubbs, Lia Lowenthal, Erica Magrey, Josh Mannis, Laurie Nye, Vernon Price, Charlie Roberts, and Jason Yates will be on view.

“Art differs from dreaming not only because it makes the unconscious conscious-a purely cognitive relation-but also because it liberates repressed instincts-a libidinal relation.”

--Norman O. Brown

The libido is commonly understood as unconscious or conscious sexual desire. Alternatively, it's an undifferentiated energy that underlies thinking, feeling, sensation, and intuition. The former is Freud's sex-obsessive account of the psycho-sexual apparatus, while the latter is Jung's idea of de-sexualized energy. Most of the works in this show were (probably) organized around Freud's formulation of the libido given my proclivities, but not limited to it. In general, in the cognitive floor plan, the bottom is the best place for the libido's 'energy' to expand. The show itself is on the bottom floor too, literally in the basement.

Every artist, at some point, goes to the basement. Here, she uses the distortion of the unconscious by means of condensation and displacement, but never to the point where the viewer cannot detect a position. The superego, the ever-present ethicist, which presides above, always leaves its traces at the bottom floor and on the art object. It loves to annotate and frame as much as the body loves to make a mess. It's for this reason that not all these works are 'unfettered' expressions of libidinal desire. If someone told me they were, I'm not sure I'd believe him. “Bottom Floor” is a selection of artists who I've observed to combat personal and societal repressions through the art-object, and to discover the scope of each one's real desires. In the words of Rilke, they seek to find the unlived lines of the body.

bottom floor
Nora Berman



Nora Pīa
Automotive paint, UV print and
watercolor on wood
30 x 40 x 1.5 inches
2015

bottom floor
Roger Herman



Untitled
Glazed ceramic
8.25 x 19 inches
diameter
1997

Untitled
Glazed ceramic
12 x 8.5 inches
diameter
ca. 2010

Untitled
Glazed ceramic
8 x 11.5 inches
diameter
ca. 2010

Untitled
Glazed ceramic
20 x 12 inches
diameter
2010

Untitled
Glazed ceramic
7.5 x 19.5 inches
diameter
ca. late 1990s

bottom floor
Whitney Hubbs



Woman no. 12 (Self-Portrait)
archival pigment print
40 x 32 inches
edition of 3 plus 2 artist's
proofs
2016

bottom floor
Lia Lowenthal



Smooth Trug
Plywood, stain, velvet,
3D-printed stainless steel/
bronze alloy
48 x 14 x 17 inches
2016

bottom floor
Erica Magrey



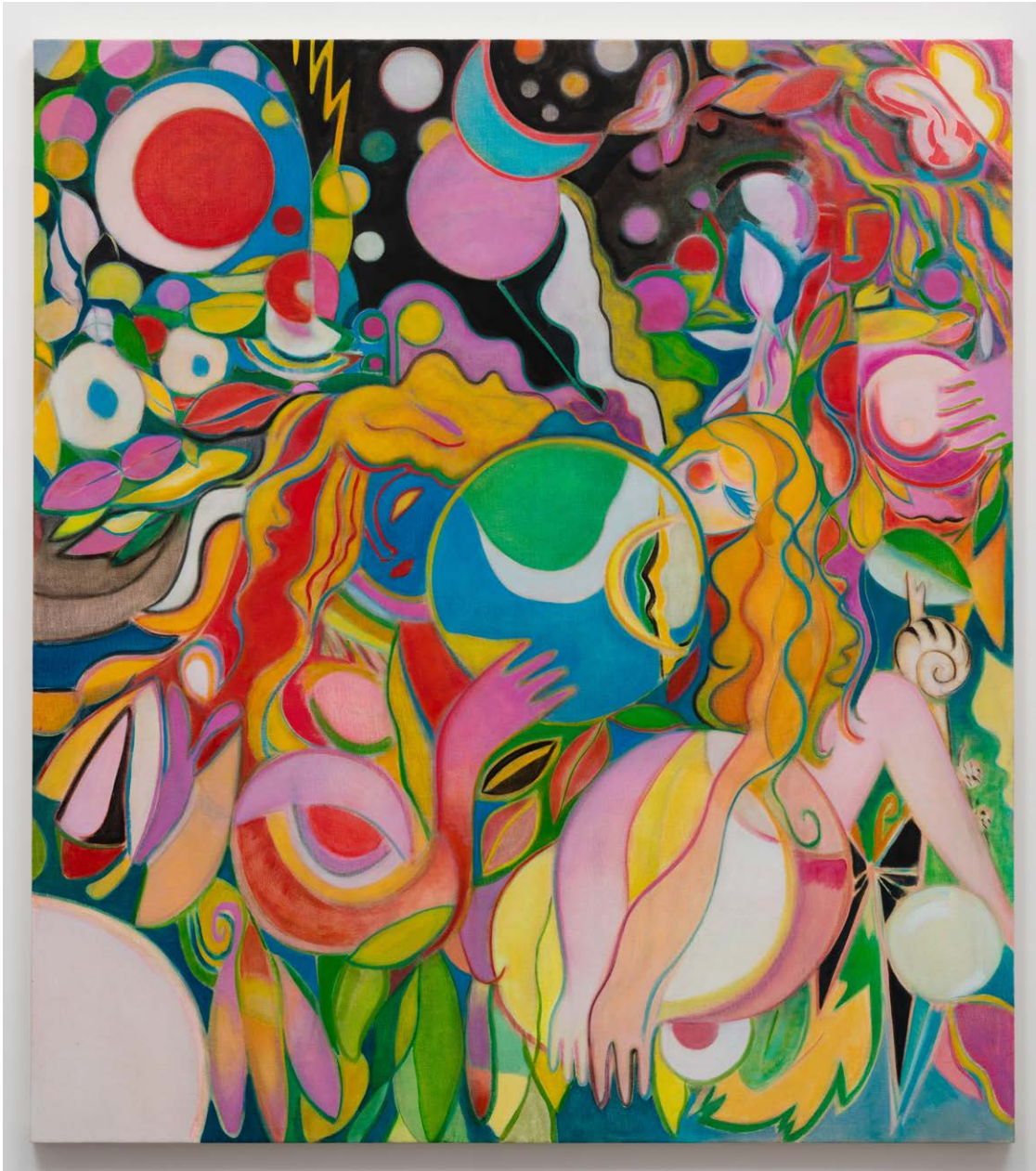
Blue Vignette 1
fabric, padding, wood, elec-
tronics, HD video (TRT 03:15,
looping)
18 x 24 x 4.25 in
2016

bottom floor
Josh Mannis



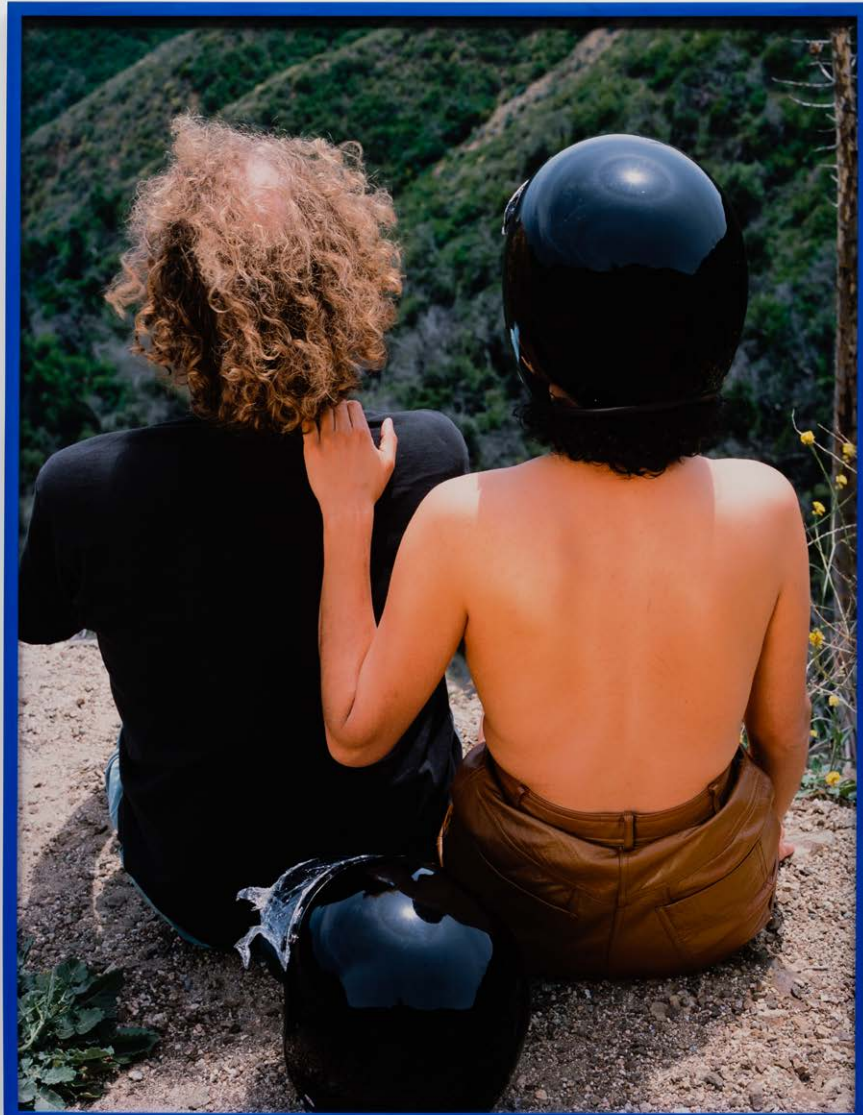
Original Insult
ink on paper
23-7/8 x 21-7/8 inches
2015

bottom floor
Laurie Nye



The Infinity Girls
Oil on canvas
55 x 49 inches
2016

bottom floor
Vernon Price



Return II
Color Photograph
in Artist Frame
39 X 29 inches
Ed of 3 + 1 AP
2016

bottom floor
Charlie Roberts



Beach Walk
Watercolor on paper
14 x 10 inches
2016



Santa Cruz
Watercolor on paper
14 x 10 inches
2016

bottom floor
Jason Yates



Deep Into the Whites
Mixed media on canvas
20 x 46 x 80 inches
2016

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