



KING'S LEAP

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Joshua Abelow and Joshua Boulos

EDM

August 5 – September 3, 2022

Press Release by Parker Ito

The gallery

I don't know that much about King's Leap other than that it seems to be a young, cool gallery in New York. Where the gallery is located, I don't know, I've never been. Hopefully next time I'm in NY I can visit (I hope it's not in Brooklyn). I follow the gallery on Instagram so I'm somewhat familiar with their program. My friend Joe frequently works with them (or is he represented? Does King's Leap represent artists?) Joe I know through my friend AI, a famous twitter person and crystal expert, who does a funny and cool podcast, which I may or may not have been interviewed on (about poker.) AI also wrote a young teen murder novella that is supposedly very good (I haven't read it). When I first met Joe, I was on a bit of a boba binge, so naturally, I had this really crazy boba in hand that I had just purchased in the East Village by Cooper Union. Joe and I instantly got along not only because of our shared love of art but also our shared love of poker. I've never played with Joe so I cannot vouch for his abilities on the felt but he seems to know what he is talking about. Spencer, my LA friend, (who does not play poker), also just did a show at King's Leap (I believe it was the show directly before *EDM*.)

Abelow

Josh1—I know who he is of course, I don't think I've ever met him though (but pretty sure I would recognize him.) We must have been at the same art events in NY before. Doesn't he live upstate now? Freddy, the project space he runs, does interesting stuff. To be honest, I haven't followed the work too closely over the years, but from my observations, Josh1 is what I'd refer to as a "style artist"- in that when you see the work, you know it's an Abelow. Josh1 used to show at James Fuentes. I was once in a group show at James Fuentes, and my ceramic sculpture for the show got broken in transit. Josh1, if I remember correctly, is a bit older than I am, and has been a working artist for over 10 years. Looking at his CV, (although I hate to make assessments about an artist this way) it seems he's been very active. Being an artist is hard. Continuing to produce and to have shows is tiring, because it becomes less and less novel the more you do it and of course it's very hard to keep having new ideas over and over. It's easy to get complacent and just continue doing the same shit over and over again. As an outsider, my take is that Josh1's willingness to continually show and produce new works seems to be driven by a genuine love and excitement of art. Respect to Josh1.

Boulos

Josh2 is my (first and last ever) former studio intern. He was recommended to me by my friend Travess, who was Josh2's teacher at RISD. We immediately bonded because we are both of Japanese American descent, and both of our grandfathers fought in the 442nd, which is the WWII all Japanese American regiment. Josh2's family back in Hawaii lives in a housing community built specifically for 442nd Veterans, and he told me that his parents hung up printouts of my work around the house. I'm very flattered. I'm not really sure what Josh2 did while he worked for me, other than go through my stuff when I wasn't here (he had his own key,) or steal supplies from the studio. The latter is only speculation, but I did notice Josh making some paintings with a specific linen—a not so typical herringbone linen that I have been using in my work for the last 5 years. The same paintings that contained the herringbone also seemed to utilize a transfer method that Josh2 learned when he was working for me. It's not a secretive method, and it's lame to be protective about stuff anyways, but it was funny to see this. I have to say though, Josh2 did make the materials and methods his own thing, which impressed me. This is the sign of a good artist. Kinda punk of Josh2 to do that. I like that. Respect to

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Josh2. Since his time spent in my studio, Josh2 dropped out of college. He has built up a community of artists that support him, and that he supports as well, through his project space Apartment 13 in Providence. I'm planning on doing a show at Apartment 13 this fall, hopefully. Josh1 did a solo at Apartment 13. I feel like a corny big brother saying this, but I am proud of Josh2. He's on the right track of chiseling out his own artistic pathway.

The Show

Josh2 sent me some photos of the works so I could write this press release. I'm having a hard time finding them in my email now. I just called Josh2 but he didn't answer, so I'm going to do this from memory. What I remember is some paintings of Danger Mouse, and some drawings of E.T. There is one Danger Mouse painting I like.

The show title I suspect is a reference to Electronic Dance Music, a genre of music based around large festival gatherings. I really hate music festivals and have little interest in the genre. I also suspect that neither Josh1 nor Josh2 are EDM fans, nor have a particular relationship to this festival culture. But maybe there is a connection to be made between the social aspect of participating in EDM as a lifestyle, and the dynamics of being an artist and participating in the art world. Or even the function of EDM and art in itself. People can listen to EDM in the confines of their own homes, and enjoy it "formally," but the passion surrounding EDM is much more about experiencing the music in a festival atmosphere. It is a highly socialized experience. Just as the meaning in contemporary art doesn't exist without its own social paradigm. Of course, the art objects themselves exist as material, as a group of atoms making up a thing. But to give that thing significance, it needs to be experienced in a specific context. Is this the reason why people attend openings?

Perhaps the opening to the art show *EDM* will be its own mini-festival or serve a similar function. I'd like to see a graph of the crossover between contemporary art participants and EDM festival goers.

Joshua Abelow (b. 1976, Frederick, MD) is an artist based in Harris, NY, and New York, NY. Recent exhibitions were held at Et al. (San Francisco, CA), Baader-Meinhof (Omaha, NE), AD.NYC (New York NY), Jir Sandel, (Copenhagen, DK), Anthony Greaney (Somerville, MA), Magenta Plains (New York, NY), Sydney (Sydney, AU), Apartment 13 (Providence, RI), Harkawik (Los Angeles, CA), James Fuentes (New York, NY) and Halsey McKay (East Hampton, NY) Additionally, the artist is known as the proprietor of Freddy, a curatorial project he founded in Baltimore (2014).

Joshua Boulous (b. 1997, Honolulu, HI) is an artist based in Providence, RI. Solo exhibitions include Triest (New York, NY). Group exhibitions include Drama Gallery (Brooklyn, NY), Fall River Museum of Contemporary Art (Fall River, MA), Baader-Meinhof (Omaha, NE), and Croy Nielsen (Vienna, AT).