

IS THIS DESIRE?

August 13–29, 2026

Box Spring Gallery, Philadelphia, PA



IS THIS DESIRE?

Opening Reception: Thursday, August 13, 6–9pm; Exhibition Duration: August 13–29, 2026.

Box Spring Gallery at Crane Arts, 1400 N. American St. Suite 100C, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Open Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 1–6pm, or by appointment by emailing contact@boxspringgallery.com.

Is This Desire? is a provocative exhibition that offers examples of objectification, consumerism, longing and lust, in terms of societal expectations and going against them. **Charlotte Davis-Hup**, **Madeline Guido**, and **Quincy Adrien Hukow** are three Philadelphia-based artists, recent graduates of Tyler School of Art and Architecture, friends, and now studio-mates.

Inspired by each other's work and vintage publishing (like *Playboy* magazines, pornography and advertisements from the 1970s) the artworks, when shown together, create an environment that's a bit naughty. Davis-Hup's images of an active game of pool would seem innocent if not among Guido's sensuous female lovers. And the dark blues and blacks used in her works suggest it might be a place of ill repute. Is there a special connection to the playful nudes? A secret underbelly? Gambling? The light is dim and in true 70s fashion there is plenty of smoking.

Enhancing the exhibition environment further, Hukow provides paintings of raw meat. Isolated images of meat take on an entirely different meaning alongside the playful nudes. Sadly, comparing women to meat is nothing new. Both are objects to be consumed. What's really naughty about the environment here, is that one might find it shamefully desirable. Desire exists when we can't have something we crave. It's so bad that it's good.



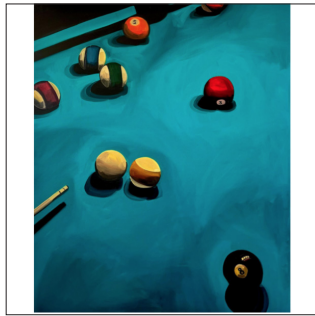
Upon entering the gallery there are two figures lounging in opposite directions, providing a natural symmetry to the installation. Ironically Guido's *Vestal, Virgin* painting is in the middle of the two unrelated gay figures, mimicking the Virgin Mary from an early Renaissance triptych altarpiece. Two of the three figures also have their genitalia censored. The coincidental contradiction of this arrangement is amusing. Whether we are sinners, hedonists or anything else, Hukow's *Ordained Obsession* is hung like a disclaimer, and says "Lord, please save us all..."

Above: Lovers in Repose by Madeline Guido

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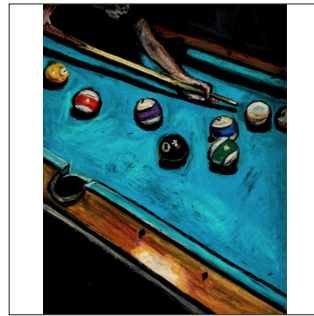
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Charlotte Davis-Hup
Kronenbourg Dream
Oil on canvas
48"x 40" / \$4,000



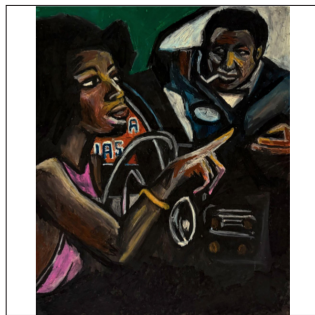
Charlotte Davis-Hup
Bensen & Hedges 100s
Oil pastel on paper mounted
on wood panel
17"x 14" / \$350



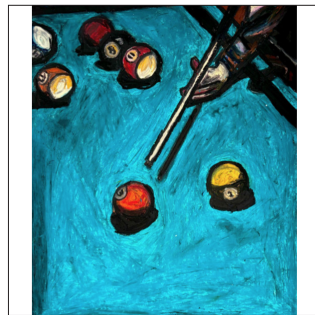
Charlotte Davis-Hup
Take a Stand
Oil pastel on butcher paper
mounted on wood panel
22"x 17" / \$500



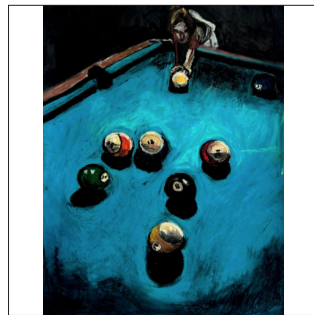
Charlotte Davis-Hup
Cool Ain't Cold
Oil pastel on paper mounted
on wood panel
17"x 14" / \$350



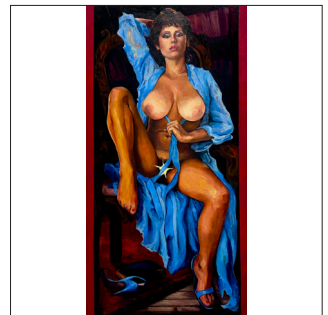
Charlotte Davis-Hup
Lucky Brake
Oil pastel on paper mounted
on wood panel
17"x 14" / \$350



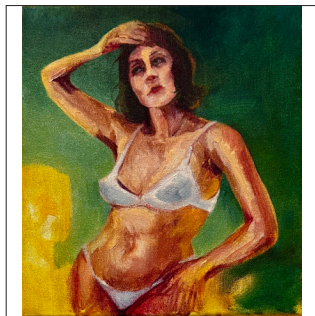
Charlotte Davis-Hup
Sleep In Your Hat
Oil pastel on paper mounted
on wood panel
17"x 14" / \$350



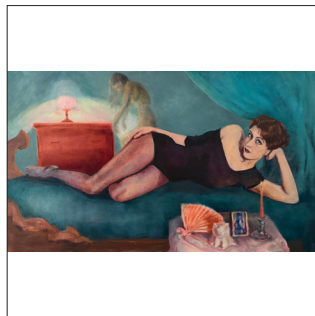
Charlotte Davis-Hup
Haggard Lagoon
Oil pastel on butcher paper
mounted on wood panel
22"x 17" / \$500



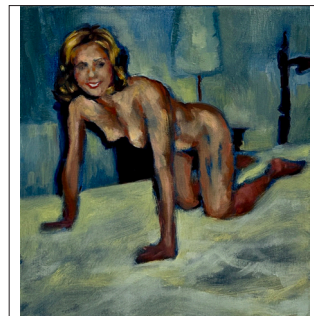
Madeline Guido
Vestal, Virgin
Oil on oil-primed board
23"x 12" / \$552



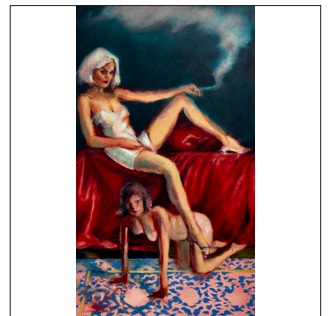
Madeline Guido
Blue Bikini
Oil on canvas
11"x 10" / \$220



Madeline Guido
Lovers in Repose
Oil on canvas
22"x 38" / \$1,200



Madeline Guido
Just Lucky, I Guess
Oil on linen
12"x 11" / \$264



Madeline Guido
Roommates
Oil on canvas
26"x 15" / \$780

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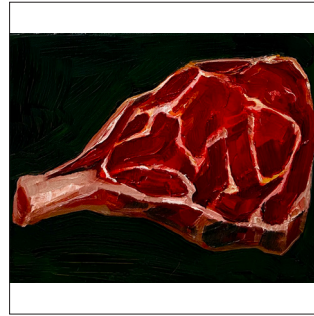
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Madeline Guido
Dear in the Headlights
Oil on canvas
24"x 12" / \$576



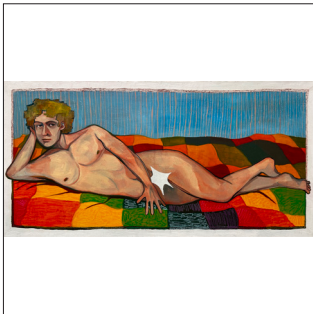
Quincy Adrien Hukow
BENT
Oil on molding paste-primed
wood
10"x 10" / \$300



Quincy Adrien Hukow
BREATHLESS
Oil on molding paste-primed
canvas
8"x 10" / \$130



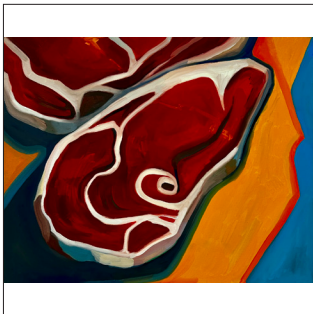
Quincy Adrien Hukow
YEARN
Oil on canvas
14"x 11" / \$170



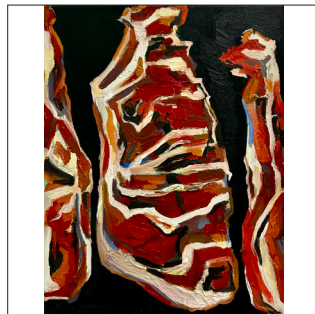
Quincy Adrien Hukow
Lounge on Big Gay Quilt
Oil paint, oil pastel on
molding paste-primed canvas
18"x 36" / \$450



Quincy Adrien Hukow
Ordained Obsession
Oil on molding paste-primed
cardboard
14"x 11" / \$130



Quincy Adrien Hukow
RUBBINGU
Oil on canvas
16"x 20" / \$300



Quincy Adrien Hukow
Muscle Memory
Oil on canvas
14"x 11" / \$150



Cool Ain't Cold by Charlotte Davis-Hup



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CHARLOTTE DAVIS-HUP *charlottedavishup.com / @charlottedavishup*

Artist Statement

I am a painter interested in producing stark images that interpret the past. I do this by referencing advertisements from both digital and physical archives as well as personal photos. In these paintings, I omit blatant product information to allow for projected interpretations. What interests me is the legibility of my subjects and documenting what requires physical engagement.

Biography

Charlotte Davis-Hup is a painter from Stockton, New Jersey. Based in Philadelphia, she received her BFA in 2025 from Tyler School of Art at Temple University. Her work involves an appropriation of images from the past. 1960s advertisements and eight ball pool combine as sources for oil paintings and oil pastel drawings. She is interested in the accessibility of these subjects and the legibility of the images she creates.

MADELINE GUIDO *madelineguido.com / @madelinerosesart*

Artist Statement

I am a painter whose work uses traditional oil painting techniques and reclaimed images of the female body to explore sapphic narratives. My work is figurative and representational, utilizing snippets of vintage imagery, old Playboy magazines, and life drawings as primary sources to inform my paintings. I reimagine these hypersexualized figures into dreamlike interior spaces where their personhood is reestablished. Through both art historical and pornographic references, I am interested in creating a tension in my paintings between the viewer and the inherent objectification of feminine bodies.

Biography

Madeline Guido is a figurative painter based in Philly. Working in traditional oil painting methods, she reimagines the feminine form through a sapphic narrative. Collaging found imagery and life drawing into fictionalized interior spaces, her figures communicate a tenderness that detaches them from the overtly voyeuristic gaze. She received her BFA in painting from the Tyler School of Art and Architecture in 2025, where she earned the Creative Arts and Research Grant. Following her undergraduate studies, she was a finalist in the 2025 AXA Art Prize Exhibition at the New York Academy of Art. Continuing her artistic practice alongside her studio mates, she works to actualize intimate stories through painting.



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QUINCY ADRIEN HUKOW *@qwuinchy*

Artist Statement

Using figurative painting, my work questions and satirizes the volatile relationship between queerness and fetishization. Through the coexisting depictions of self portraiture and objectified forms such as meat, pornography and collage, I toy with ideas of self-perception versus societal perception. These figures and objects give spotlight to queer experiences like pleasure, shame and the tender middle ground of both sensations. The contrast in imagery welcomes a viewer to examine how queer bodies are consumed, censored, or celebrated, while also reclaiming the internalized humor, desire, and discomfort felt by many.

Biography

Quincy Adrien Hukow is a queer artist from Philadelphia who primarily works in oil paint and digital illustration. His/her work shares the artist's interest in fetishes, fetishization, and pure gay fantasy. After graduating with a Bachelor's from Tyler School of Art in 2025, Quincy has been focusing on creating a new self-disciplined painting practice in his/her shared studio space. Color drives his/her work deeper into make believe worlds, that translate an awkward humor while remaining grounded in reality he legibility of the images she creates.

BOX SPRING GALLERY *boxspringgallery.com / @boxspringgallery / contact@boxspringgallery.com.*

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Celebrating where art and design meet, Box Spring Gallery provides carefully curated exhibitions with opportunities to purchase contemporary art and design by a variety of creatives. Our main goals are to give creatives visibility, sales, and guidance, and to educate the consumer public about a wide range of creative discipline, innovation and purpose.



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BOX SPRING GALLERY is the collaborative effort of Gaby Heit and Robert A. Stewart, Esq.

GABY HEIT gabyheit.com / [@gabyheit](https://www.instagram.com/gabyheit) / gaby@gabyheit.com

Gaby Heit is an art/photo director, graphic designer and creative consultant with a master's degree from Pratt Institute. A four-time gallery director and independent curator, Gaby has represented artists from Philadelphia and New York, and has produced numerous exhibitions that celebrate connections between fine art, science, and design. Some include shows for Le Méridien Hotel, Main Line Health, AIGA, DesignPhiladelphia, Philly Tech Week, the University City Science Center, and more.

With many years of experience in print publishing, she has led the creative direction, rebranding and design for national magazines covering fashion, travel, women's services, business, and fine art. Gaby regularly consults with all kinds of creatives on presentation, organization and self-promotion, and her latest project was to open Box Spring Gallery in Philadelphia in June 2024.

ROBERT A. STEWART, Esq.

Robert is a long-time resident of Philadelphia and the husband of artist, Michele M. Tremblay, who passed away in 2022. As a college student he had the good fortune to attend art education classes at the Barnes Foundation in Merion taught by Violette De Mazia and Barton Church. Robert's first art purchase, made in 1973, was an oil painting by Edwin Brent and later he and his wife Michele acquired works by Roger Anliker, Charles Schmidt, Marie Bender, George Sorrels, Carol Oldenburg, Dan Wittels and Roberta Daar. His late wife's work can be viewed online at artofmichele.com, as well as a large mural opposite the entrance to Jefferson Hospital on 9th Street in Philadelphia, which Michele created with New York artist Polly Apfelbaum.