

RACHEL HAYDEN - HEATHER BENJAMIN
"SWEET DREAMS & DEMON'S TEARS"



PRESS KIT



BIM BAM

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"SWEET DREAMS & DEMON'S TEARS"

Bim Bam Gallery is proud to present "Sweet Dreams & Demon's Tears", Rachel Hayden and Heather Benjamin's **double solo show**. For both of these New York-based artists, this is the first time exhibiting in France.

From **Rachel Hayden's** serene faces embellished with butterflies and flowers, to **Heather Benjamin's** combative and voluptuous deities, the two artists share a common attention to using symbolism as a vehicle for emancipation.

The omnipresence of both celestial movements and the vegetal life cycle in Hayden's work project the theme of transformation and invite us to investigate our own emotional state through the lense of perpetual change. Celebrating life and not giving into the inertia of anxiety.

Benjamin's images praise femininity under a raw light, channeling sexuality in scenes as baroque as they are explicit. Strong and unapologetic, her nymphs invoke empowerment and call for breaking the mirror of traditional standards of beauty.



Rachel Hayden



Heather Benjamin

« In the act of composing a painting, I have power to playfully manipulate forces greater than myself, and find control over my own visual narrative. »

« The works explore one's self perception and internal emotional landscape through a lens of heightened isolation. »

RACHEL HAYDEN "SWEET DREAMS"



Born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1992. Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

Rachel Hayden graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2015 with a BFA in Fine Arts. In 2020, she relocated from Baltimore to Brooklyn, NY, where she currently lives and works. Through her art practice, she develops a pictorial alphabet of natural elements, such as insects, plants or celestial objects, on which she superimposes faces.

By playing with hues, she gives relief to living beings, making their inherent fragility palpable. Her skills as a colorist are ingeniously elaborated, while the simplicity of the objects she selects and arranges gives the spectators an immediate proximity with the subjects. The sincerity of her paint stroke and the absence of artifices, allow these anthropomorphic creatures to coexist in well-balanced compositions. Whereas a memento mori reminds us that death is never far, Rachel Hayden, through her paintings, wraps us up in the immediacy of life.

Heather Benjamin graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2016 with a BFA in Printmaking. Benjamin began self-publishing zines and artist books of her drawings in 2009. Since then, she has maintained her bookmaking and self-publishing practices while simultaneously branching out into making larger scale drawings and paintings, as well as animating, working with ceramics and textiles. By alternating violence and sensuality in her art, Heather Benjamin defends a feminism where the woman's body is glorified in all its forms to better be demystified, reflecting her roots in punk and DIY culture. Her drawings are often self-portraits taking the shape of hybrid creatures.

She has curated group shows at Andrew Edlin (NYC), New Image Art (LA), and 182 Ave C (NYC). She has exhibited her work extensively both nationally and internationally at Jeffrey Deitch, Muddguts, Over The Influence, Miami Art Basel, NADA Chicago, Mana Contemporary, Invisible Exports, to name a few.

HEATHER BENJAMIN "DEMON'S TEARS"



Born in 1989 in New York City, where she lives and works

BIM BAM GALLERY

66 rue Charlot 75003 Paris

Exhibition from March 11th to the 20th

Open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 11am to 6pm

RACHEL HAYDEN SELECTED SHOWS AND PROJECTS

EDUCATION

2015

- Bachelor of Fine Arts, *Magna Cum Laude*, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

SOLO SHOWS

2020

- Four Bitten Fruits, Resort Gallery, Baltimore MD

2019

- Please Hold First Amendment Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2017

- CAUTION!!!, curated by Ryan Doyle, The Bermuda Project, St. Louis, MO

GROUP SHOWS

2020

- Melancholympics, curated by Sasha Bogojev, The Wunderwall, Antwerp, Belgium
- Being Human is Hard, curated by Brock Brake, Pt. 2 Gallery, Los Angeles CA

2019

- Slow Drip, curated by Alex Ebstein, Resort Gallery, Baltimore MD
- Drop Shadow, curated by Alex Ebstein, Rosenberg Gallery, Towson, MD

2018

- Juxtapoz Clubhouse 2018, with First Amendment Gallery, Miami FL

- Past Tense, curated by Dave Eassa, SPACE Gallery, Portland ME

2017

- Revenge Body, curated by Elana Webb, Adds Donna, Chicago IL
- These Art Them, curated by Justin Hoekstra, Jordan Faye Contemporary, Baltimore MD

2016

- Summer Bummer, Pop-up in the home of The Hamiltonian's Rebeka Pineda, Washington DC
- Deer in Headlights, Tastykake Gallery, Baltimore MD

HEATHER BENJAMIN SELECTED SHOWS AND PROJECTS

EDUCATION

2016

- Rhode Island School of Design, BFA Printmaking

SOLO SHOWS

2020

- Slit, Underdogs Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal
- Invention of Hysteria, Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

2019

- Burden of Blossom, Commune, Tokyo, JP
- Cowgirl Dental Floss, These Days, Los Angeles, CA

2018

- Cavegirl Monologue, Muddguts, Brooklyn, NY

GROUP SHOWS

2021

- Go Figure, Over the influence, Hong Kong

2020

- A Peripheral Reverie, Penske Projects, Los Angeles, CA
- All of Them Witches, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles, CA

2019

- Pink Moon, Worship Gallery, Seoul, KR
- Heather Benjamin / Shona McAndrew, Galerie Manqué, Brooklyn, NY

2018

- Maiden Form, Andrew Edlin, New York, NY
- A Tree Falls In The Woods, Hashimoto Contemporary, San Francisco, CA

2017

- Brooklyn Dirty Book Fair, Point Green, Brooklyn, NY
- Sort & Repeat, Good Mother Gallery, Oakland, CA

CURATORIAL

2020

- Crescendo, New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA
- Fate In A Pleasant Mood, 182 Ave C, New York, NY

2019

- Playdate, New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA

2018

- Maiden Form, Andrew Edlin, New York, NY

RACHEL HAYDEN
"SWEET DREAMS"



Orchid in the Bathtub (Day), (2021)
Acrylic on wood panel, 20 x 16 in

RACHEL HAYDEN
"SWEET DREAMS"



Moth in the Living Room (2020)
Acrylic on wood panel, 24 x 18 in



Five Lemons in a Sauna (2020)
Acrylic on wood panel, 20 x 16 in

HEATHER BENJAMIN
"DEMON'S TEARS"



I won't stay in a world without love (2020)
Pencil on newsprint, 18 x 12 in

HEATHER BENJAMIN
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Stray woman (2020)
Gouache and acrylic on paper, 20 x 16 in



Traumatized animal (2020)
Gouache and acrylic on paper, 20 x 15 in

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BIM BAM GALLERY

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