

Leonor Faber-Jonker, "Thru the Mirror," *Independent Collectors*, May 18, 2022.

INDEPENDENT COLLECTORS
PUBLIC. NON-PROFIT. PERSONAL.



VIDIGUEIRA | PORTUGAL | 05.18.2022

Thru the Mirror

In the exhibition *Thru the Mirror* at Quetzal Art Center works by Özgür Kar, Martha Colburn, Joyce Pensato and Catherine Biocca make use of the visual language of animated cartoons to reveal dark truths about ourselves.

Despite being inhabited by unlikely characters (a talking carpet?) cartoons hold up a mirror to our society. They reveal our society's obsessions and ideals. And with their dichotomy of 'good versus evil' and their reinforcement of stereotypes, they have wormed their way into our consciousness.

Thru the Mirror at the Quetzal Art Center reveals a disturbing resonance between the slapstick universe of cartoons and our experience of the world. The artworks illuminate the raw reality behind the visual language of cartoons and borrow from it to make striking comments about the society we live in.

Take *Bearer of the bad news* (2021) by Özgür Kar, where we encounter a talking skeleton. It is based on the skeletons in the medieval *danse macabre* tradition, but this skeleton is not dancing and taunting us mortals. Instead, confined to a box, resigned and a little confused at the state of the world, it shares with us his existentialist view.

Leonor Faber-Jonker, "Thru the Mirror," *Independent Collectors*, May 18, 2022.

Death comes easily in cartoons, and Martha Colburn knows this. In her film *Dolls versus Dictators* (2010) children's tv characters such as Pee Wee Herman and the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers combat the evil dictators that ruled at the time the film was made. The outlandish violence in the film echoes the real-life cruelties of dictators like Uzbekistan's Islam Karimov, who took to boiling his opponents.

In Joyce Pensato's work *Fuggetabout It IX* (2012) we encounter the raw realities behind popular cartoons. Amidst the debris of her Brooklyn-based studio, we recognize Mickey Mouse, Batman, and Homer Simpson – and yet we don't. This is what characters look like when they enter our world, or rather, Pensato's world. By magnifying characteristics that set them apart (like Batman's bat ears), Pensato reveals the insider-outsider dynamics in American society.

Finally, in Catherine Biocca's installation *Magic Carpet* (2017) we witness a dialogue between a stone and a magic carpet. When the stone asks the carpet for advice on learning to fly, he is cruelly shrugged off. What seems a light-hearted, absurd exchange, confronts us with a disturbing trait of human nature: *Schadenfreude*, the capacity to enjoy the suffering of others that is so important in the entertainment industry.

Thru the Mirror is curated by Aveline de Bruin.



Martha Colburn, 'Dolls versus Dictators', 2010,
collage with original material for film | Joyce
Pensato, 'Abominable Snow Mickey', 1995



Joyce Pensato, 'Abominable Snow Mickey',
1995

Petzel

Leonor Faber-Jonker, "Thru the Mirror," *Independent Collectors*, May 18, 2022.



Joyce Pensato, 'Batman I', 2011 | Martha Colburn, 'Dolls versus Dictators', 2010, collages with original material for film



Joyce Pensato, 'Batman I', 2011

Petzel

Leonor Faber-Jonker, "Thru the Mirror," *Independent Collectors*, May 18, 2022.



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012

Petzel

Leonor Faber-Jonker, "Thru the Mirror," *Independent Collectors*, May 18, 2022.



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012

Petzel

Leonor Faber-Jonker, "Thru the Mirror," *Independent Collectors*, May 18, 2022.



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012

Petzel

Leonor Faber-Jonker, "Thru the Mirror," *Independent Collectors*, May 18, 2022.



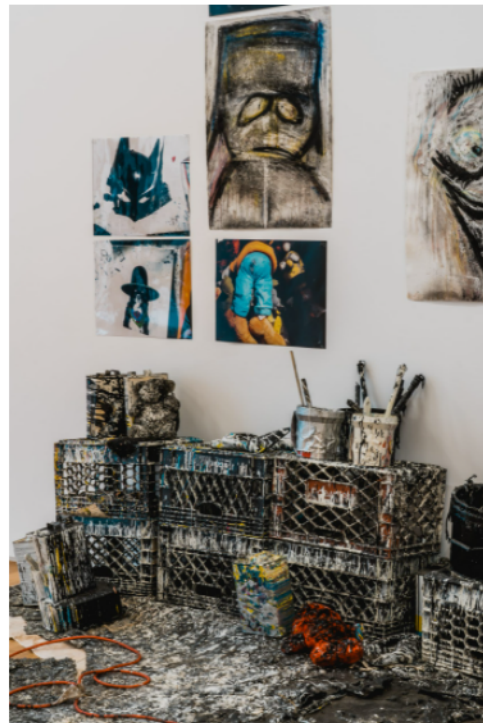
Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012

Petzel

Leonor Faber-Jonker, "Thru the Mirror," *Independent Collectors*, May 18, 2022.



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012



Joyce Pensato, 'Fuggetabout It IX', 2012

Petzel

Leonor Faber-Jonker, "Thru the Mirror," *Independent Collectors*, May 18, 2022.



Joyce Pensato, 'Abominable Snow Mickey', 1995

<https://independent-collectors.com/collections/thru-the-mirror-quetzal-art-center/>

456 W 18th Street New York NY 10011 & 35 E 67th Street New York NY 10065
Tel 212 680 9467 Fax 212 680 9473 info@petzel.com www.petzel.com