

JUPITER

Lizzy Lunday: *Public Displays of Affectation*

Jupiter Contemporary

April 2 - May 6, 2023

Opening reception: April 2, 6-8 PM

1217 71st Street, Miami Beach, FL 33141



Miami – April 02, 2023 – Jupiter Contemporary is pleased to present *Public Displays of Affectation*, a solo exhibition of new work by Brooklyn-based artist Lizzy Lunday, whose brightly hued canvases cull imagery from reality TV, social media, the artist’s iPhone photos, and occasionally art history to mine the tensions and convolutions of expression that result from the performance of intimacy as spectacle.

Featuring eight never-before-seen paintings, all of which take the popular British TV show *Love Island* as subject, the exhibition showcases Lunday’s penchant for celebrity, drama, and romance—whether genuine or affected—through a style as loud and exaggerated in its choices of color and composition as the surreal conditions of the show itself. Each painting begins as a digital collage, wherein Lunday layers and manipulates scenes from the show to arrive at a fractured, composite image that somehow feels as true to (or far from) life as the individuals and interactions it portrays. Bronzed, scantily clad bodies accented by extreme highlights along their arms, legs, and abs take center stage, fawning over one another—or observing their peers with mild apathy—in a variety of intimate encounters that while suggestive of love, desire, and affection betray a certain disassociation from their own actions and from one another.

Two individuals look on languidly from a chaise in *Good Form* (2023), for example, while a man bench presses a woman in a bikini and another woman crouches, sorority-style in a body-con dress. Here, the disaffected couple serves as an admittedly humorous foil to the conceit of the painting, as the others figures relish in heteronormative displays of gendered stereotypes, asking, if not begging, to be admired for their “good form.”

Lunday’s manipulations of the source imagery—and her practice of continually repainting and erasing sections of her compositions—engenders a tension between positive and negative space, as objects and body parts alike often either dissolve into nothingness or fuse with their background. In *Another Kissing Contest* (2023)—wherein a man bends over a woman in a hollywoods-style kiss while three other onlookers exclaim loudly, mouths wide open—one woman’s outstretched hand blends into another a man’s shoulder, his hair takes on the color of the sunset behind him, and a second woman appears to have lost her lower half. And yet, these oddities don’t detract from the believability of the scene at hand. If anything, they serve to reinforce the drama by highlighting which gestures and expressions contribute to the plot while cutting those which aren’t integral to its furtherance—a practice seemingly akin to that of a video editor cutting together raw footage of the individuals on *Love Island* in an effort to create a cohesive narrative with character arcs, budding romance, and of course public displays of affectation.

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About the Artist

Lizzy Lunday (b.1992, Kansas City, Kansas) received her MFA from Pratt Institute and her BFA from the University of Miami. Her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally at Fredericks & Freiser, New York; GNYG Gallery, Berlin; Kutlesa Gallery, Goldau, Switzerland; and Steven Zevitas Gallery, Boston. She was the recipient of Pratt's GSEF grant in 2019. More recently, Lunday was named on Saatchi Art's 2019 Rising Stars Report and was an artist-in-residence at 77Art in Rutland, Vermont. She currently lives and works in Brooklyn.

Caption: Lizzy Lunday *Infrared*, 2022 Oil and acrylic on canvas 20 by 16 in. 76.2 by 40.64 cm. © Lizzy Lunday. Courtesy of the artist and Jupiter Contemporary, Miami Beach, FL

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