

parrasch heijnen

artnet news

Events and Parties

Editors' Picks: 19 Things Not to Miss in New York's Art World This Week

Here's what's on our agenda this week.

Sarah Cascone, May 20, 2019

Through Saturday, July 1



Maddy Parrasch, *Untitled* (2018), ceramic tiles on wood. Photo courtesy of Safe Gallery.

18. “Maddy Parrasch/Emma Soucek” at Safe Gallery

If we’re lucky, we have experienced a chapter of our lives—in school or elsewhere—when we are able to absorb new information and influences from all corners and all people, like the thirstiest of sponges. This show spotlights two young artists—friends who studied, traveled, and worked together—at this critical juncture, as they shaped one another’s work. Maddy Parrasch (1995–2018) and Emma Soucek (b.1996) both recently finished their BFA programs at the Rhode Island School of Design. Kevin Zucker, the artists’ teacher at RISD, writes that while it is tempting to view this show as a memorial exhibition for Parrasch, the late daughter of gallerist Franklin Parrasch, “the vigor, exuberance, and emotional range of the actual objects in the gallery demand we not be satisfied with that conclusion, or any other. Please, look.”

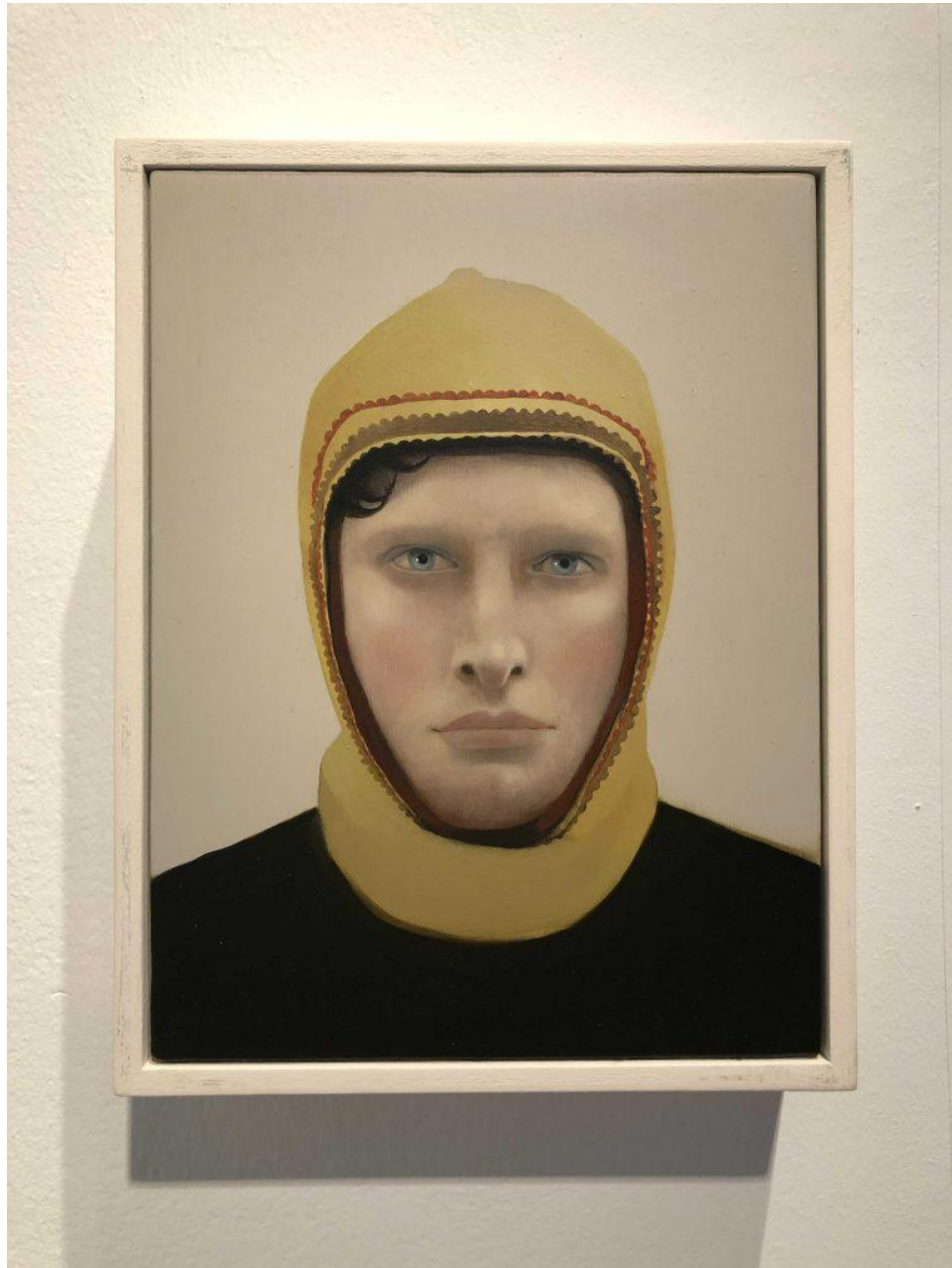
Location: Safe Gallery, 1004 Metropolitan Avenue, Brooklyn

Price: Free

Time: Saturday and Sunday, 12 p.m.–6 p.m. or by appointment

—*Julia Halperin*

Sarah Ball



Sarah Ball, *Ollie* (2021). Courtesy of the artist and Stephen Friedman.

Who: Stillness and ambiguity permeate 56-year-old Ball's Frieze presentation, her first major outing in New York. Meticulous and haunting, her portraits examine gender and identity. The subjects, which include her daughter, have luminous skin, delicate features, and a somewhat otherworldly quality. Their gaze sticks with you long after you've left the booth.

Based in: Cornwall, U.K.

Showing at: Stephen Friedman Gallery

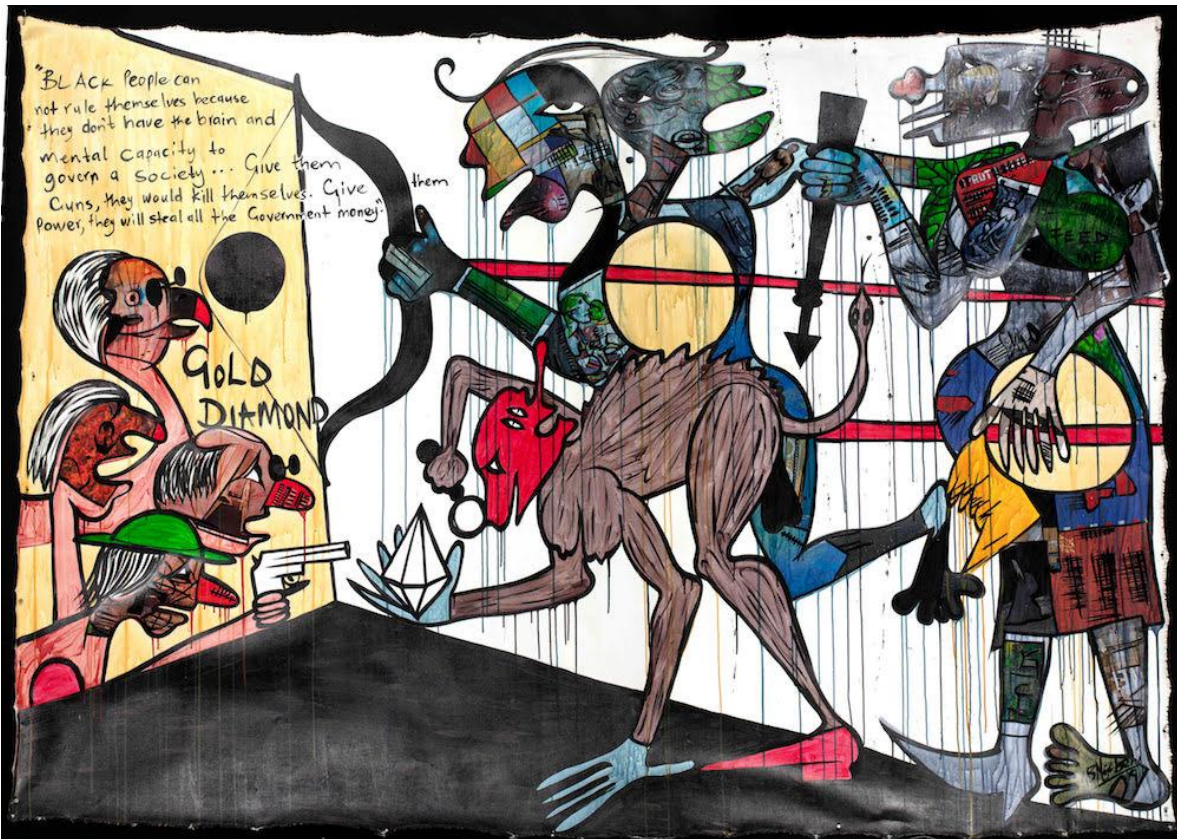
Prices: £15,000–35,000

Why You Should Pay Attention: All the works on view sold out within hours of the VIP opening. Now, there's a wait list. Buyers included a trustee of the Brooklyn Museum and a private foundation in Germany. Ball's paintings are also in the collection of the British Museum and the Rachofsky Collection in Dallas. Her first museum exhibition was at the Grace Museum in Abilene, Texas, in 2019.

Influences: Ball is inspired by artists and musicians who experimented with gender-bending and androgyny in the 1980s, including David Bowie, Chrissie Hynde, and Leigh Bowery, Lucien Freud's model and muse.

Up Next: Ball's first solo show at Stephen Friedman will take place in January 2022.

Blessing Ngobeni



Blessing Ngobeni, *Shopping for Black Skin I* (2019). Image courtesy the artist and Jenkins Johnson Gallery.

Who: Ngobeni (b. 1985) combines imagery from magazines, books, and social media with his own striking figures to create vivid compositions that confront what he considers the greatest failures of South Africa's government. Ngobeni builds up the imagery on unstretched canvases with what gallery director Karyn Behnke describes as a mix of purposefulness and "happy accidents."

Based in: Johannesburg, South Africa

Showing at: Jenkins Johnson Gallery

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Prices: \$16,000–45,000

Why You Should Pay Attention: Ngobeni’s work falls somewhere between painting, collage, figuration, and abstraction and looks like nothing else at Frieze. In 2020, he received South Africa’s prestigious Standard Bank Young Artist Award for the Visual Arts. (Past awardees include William Kentridge and Mohau Modisakeng.)

For More: Additional work by Ngobeni—who has described art as his salvation after enduring a tumultuous childhood, running away at the age of six, and having been incarcerated as a teen—is on view at Jenkins Johnson Projects in Brooklyn now; he’ll also be included in a summer show there.

Up Next: Ngobeni will have a solo exhibition at the gallery in 2022.