



SAN FRANCISCO

Dan Gluibizzi: "You Don't Have to be Alone Tonight" at CULT Aimee Friberg Exhibitions

Science fiction writers often portray a dystopian future populated by dehumanized beings and constant surveillance by "Big Brother" who watches over them. Portland-based painter Dan Gluibizzi, a sci-fi fan himself, presents works that explore the increasing porosity between the realms of public and private. Using social media sites such as Instagram and Tumblr as his source material, Gluibizzi catalogs and archives photos which he then combines in colorful and disarming compositions that often allude to themes from speculative fiction or mythology. "You Don't Have to be Alone Tonight," his exhibition's title, was taken from a Christmas Eve listserv posting for a Portland sex club. Gluibizzi's cheerful, pastel-hued medium scale acrylic and watercolors on paper use simple images of figures arranged in pleasing geometric compositions based on the grid or the oval. One could perhaps at first glance take them for children's book illustrations—closer inspection, however, reveals the images, many found from "amateur adult content" on the web, to be nude figures, suspended in an empty, abstracted space, their paper doll-like forms engaged in kissing, fondling, foreplay or assorted carnal congress.

Space time dance (2015) offers central figures in warm pink, and peripheral ones in cooler hues of blue and violet. Singles and couples engage in acrobatic acts, handstands, backbends, or balances, along with, or as part of, foreplay or coitus. Subtle variations in hue created by allowing the paint to bleed into pooling water suggest volume, while outlines inscribe the figures here within lines of blue pencil, Gluibizzi's background in printmaking lending the work a kind of formal rigor.

Disconcerting "Little Orphan Annie" eyes, along with nipples, belly buttons and pubic triangles all are often signified by a void. *Conception of Perseus* (2015), with floating figures in mango, sage green and turquoise, references the Greek myth of Zeus impregnating Danaë, raining down on her in a golden shower. Here the Internet is a god-like entity "impregnating" all with its virtual content. Gluibizzi's interest in the online personas of his fellow humans is not limited to their behavior in the bedroom. Other works, such as *Our Equals* (2015) make use of the ubiquitous headshots, profile images, or assorted "selfies" posted liberally across social media. This increasing seepage of virtual experience into the realm of our interactions with actual people is certainly disturbing, a message vibrating beneath the surface of Gluibizzi's elegant and deceptively decorative work.

—BARBARA MORRIS

"CONCEPTION OF PERSEUS," 2015

Dan Gluibizzi

ACRYLIC AND WATERCOLOR ON PAPER, 68" X 49¼"

PHOTO: COURTESY CULT AIMEE FRIBERG EXHIBITIONS