

# HAL BROMM

Est. Tribeca 1975

## *TOUCHING/FEELING*

### About the artists:

**Ruthie Abel** ————— Ruthie Abel is a multidisciplinary artist whose work is grounded in two decades of advocacy for human rights, civil liberties, and environmental justice initiatives. Abel is an FDR Four Freedoms Park artist award winner; FUJI Photo awardee; Peter S. Reed Foundation grantee; commission artist from The Rockefeller Foundation and the New Museum; Eddie Adams Workshop alum; and New York University Step Up Photo Voice photography instructor, in conjunction with the Josephine Herrick Project. Her work has been reviewed in Artnet News and has been published in The Huffington Post, Newsweek, Topic Stories, Vogue, Purple Diary, Artnet News and Artsy. She contributed the cover image and primary photography to *Vulnerable But Not Broken: Psychosocial challenges and resilience pathways among unaccompanied children*, a Yale University School of Medicine publication. A North Carolina native, Ruthie graduated from Columbia Law School, Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Becky Bailey** ————— Becky Bailey is an artist whose practice is an ongoing attempt at resisting the compulsion of production and consumption, and the unceasing demands on our time and attention. She makes objects as a way to focus attention, slow down, and steep herself, and the viewer, in ambiguity, mystery, and unknowns. Her multimedia process incorporates painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, and papermaking. Before enrolling as an MFA candidate at the University of Connecticut, Becky completed several residencies, including at Anderson Ranch Arts Center, The Studios at MASS MoCA, and Monson Arts Center, and has shown work in exhibitions across the U.S., including New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Massachusetts.

**Luis Frangella** ————— Luis Frangella (1944-1990) was a figurative, postmodern painter and sculptor. He earned a Masters in architecture at the University of Buenos Aires in 1972 and then attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1973. In 1976, he moved to New York City where he painted huge “street” murals on construction site walls, abandoned Hudson River piers, and in the nightclubs of the East Village and Tribeca. Situated in these nontraditional spaces, he

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began working with subversive artists like Wojnarowicz. Luis was a sort of father figure to many younger artists, becoming an influential member of the East Village art scene. Known as a good cook, he fostered a sense of community and caring, often serving impromptu meals in his loft after the late-night club scene was winding down. Writing in *Art Forum* (1985), John Howell proclaimed, “Luis Frangella is a classic junk artist. That is, he grafts the essence of classic art themes and techniques onto an anthology of urban debris used as support materials, thereby updating the past and historicizing the present.” At the height of the AIDS epidemic Frangella was diagnosed with the disease and played an integral role in the ACT UP movement. Ostracized by his sexuality and state of health, Frangella embraced the marginalization he faced, applying it to their art and activism. Seriously incapacitated by his illness, Frangella was unable to remain involved for long, dying in 1990 at the age of 46.

**Abbey Gilbert** ——— Abbey Gilbert is a photographer based in New York City. As she navigates through her personal exploration of lesbian sexual chemistry, Abbey Gilbert examines the ambiguous space between comfort and eroticism, highlighting her magnetism towards nourishment and care. Her work is driven by desire and longing, with particular emphasis on her relationships with past and present lovers. Diaristic in nature, her mixed media work allows her to assert her lesbian gaze and sexual identity, giving particular agency to her femininity.

**Bitna Jung** ——— Bitna Jung is a multidisciplinary artist who focuses on painting. She weaves memories and desires in her subconscious. Especially, she interests in how childhood experiences shape adults through the relationship between parents and children. Sufficient caregiver support forms a foundation for resilience, while its absence may lead to independence but also feelings of helplessness. Her work reflects on the sanctuary and protection provided by parents and she discovers desire within them. She expresses her narrative through images she took in person, between boundaries of constructivism and abstract expressionism.

**Nick Horcher** ——— Nick Horcher is an Arab American artist from Seattle, WA, currently living between Seattle and New York City. Working predominantly in figurative oil painting, he uses plains of colors and broad brush strokes to depict queer bodies, intimacy, and repose, with a particular focus on practices of body modification as a means of asserting bodily autonomy, and as acts of self creation. Nick is interested in the lack of representation within art historical narratives of intimacy outside of the predominant heteronormative fields. Elements of adornment are the layers of identity with which

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we clothe ourselves. Nick aims to investigate identity, and objects and symbols of power while working within his practice to provide an honest representation of his community in repose.

**Ariene Lopez-Huici** — Following her art studies, she becomes in 1970, the assistant of the Brazilian filmmaker Nelson Pereira dos Santos, father of Brazil's Cinema Novo. She learns lighting and photographic techniques, develops a long-term attachment to the avant-garde cinema and is attracted to all forms of artistic improvisation. In 1975, she decides to dedicate herself to photography and does her first one-woman exhibition at Dartmouth College in 1977. In 1980, she moves and settles in New York with her husband, the sculptor Alain Kirili. In 2004, two major retrospectives of her work are exhibited in the Museum of Grenoble, France, and at the IVAM in Valencia, Spain. In 2008, the New York Studio School presents a retrospective of her most recent works. In 2014, Ariane Lopez-Huici and Alain Kirili showed their work in dialogue for the first time in "Parcours croisés" at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Caen.

**Anja Marais** — Anja Marais explores exposed objects, systems, and ideas after disintegration. She brings weathered objects and subjects together as hybrids in her studio to be reinvented in sculptures, installations, video work, photography, and poetry. Her process revives, transforms, and reinterprets, leading to a new understanding of cultural phenomena of false supremacies and fragmented heritages. Anja Marais was recently awarded Harpo Foundation Grant, and The Ellies Creator Award (2020) and the Orlando Contemporary Art Prize finalist (2019). She has had installation work on display at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, Charlotte, NC (2020- 21) and the Corcoran Gallery, Washington DC (2019-20). She has also recently been the subject of solo exhibitions at Bridge Red, Miami (2018), University of the Arts, Philadelphia (2016), and University of Northern Colorado, Greeley (2015).

**Natalya Nesterova** — Natalya Nesterova (1944-2022), a figurative artist, became a member of the Artists' Union of the USSR in 1969, a short year after graduating from Moscow's Surikov Art Institute. She was soon considered a leading member of the left wing of the Union, and at age twenty-two took part in the exhibits of the Young Moscow Artists. Creating works in a figurative primitivist manner while often depicting grotesque imagery, Nesterova was sometimes accused of undermining the foundations of Russian professional artistic training. The appeal and popularity of her work seemed only enhanced by such critiques. Nesterova returns often to the theme of fate and enlightenment with religious connotations and

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elements of theater. At the opening of her major 1992 retrospective at the Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, Nesterova was asked to explain the meaning of her works. In halting English, she explained that she wants the viewer to find their own meaning in her work.

**Spencer Nichols** — As a New York based photographer, Spencer Nichols negotiates the balance between traditional and contemporary ideals. Born in Denver, Colorado (1998), and then raised in San Diego, California, Nichols grew up in a nontraditional family, enduring many obstacles during his childhood. He began studying art and its history in high school when he took an art history class, and fell in love with it; however, didn't start making art until college. He enrolled at the University of Arizona as an art history major with a minor in Spanish. While studying, he realized that he wanted to try making art, and fell in love with photography, eager to test the boundary on how photos can be used to blend the past with the present, and eventually the future. Nichols completed his MFA in Photography at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY in 2023. Nichols works both digitally and in analog, often incorporating found imagery and textual elements. His work is based in his autobiography and examines the way an individual can navigate the surrounding world, the responsibility of consciousness, and male sexuality. Nichols often includes the subject of the work in the process of creation, resulting in unexpected uses of materials. Currently, his work is dealing with masculinity, and the boundaries to which it can be pushed, and the place from which it came.

**Gary Schneider** — Born in East London, South Africa, Gary Schneider lives and works in New York. He has a BFA from Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa and an MFA from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York. Schneider's solo exhibitions include: Artists Space, New York City; The Musée de L'Elysee Lausanne, Switzerland; The International Center of Photography, New York City; The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu; Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge; The Museum of Photographic Art in San Diego; and The Reykjavík Art Museum, Hafnarhús, Iceland. He has received awards and grants, including: An Eisenstaedt Award from Life Magazine and Columbia School of Journalism; a National Endowment for the Arts grant; the Lou Stoumen Award; and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Some public collections that include his work are: The National Gallery of Canada; The Art Institute of Chicago; The Whitney Museum; Yale University Art Museum; The Guggenheim Museum; Harvard Art Museums; and The Museum of Fine Arts Boston.

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**Joey Tepedino** ——— Joey Tepedino is a self-taught artist based in Pennsylvania and has been painting for over 15 years. He considers his art a reflection of the anxieties and fears that captivate his inner psyche. In May of 2021, Tepedino debuted his work in a group show at Connexions Gallery in Easton, Pennsylvania. Since then, He has participated in multiple group exhibitions with Hal Bromm. His solo debut exhibition, *Macrocosmic Minds*, opened at Hal Bromm in late 2023 to broad critical acclaim. Since then, his work continues to be featured in shows both at Hal Bromm in Tribeca and at Jag Gallery in Key West, FL.