

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Timothy Curtis: The Cat's Cradle**

albertz benda, New York

October 7 - November 20, 2021



*Timothy Curtis Studio, October 2021*

Most of us can't imagine what life confined to a small cell for seven years must feel like – only the mind able to run free. Timothy once told me that a prison psychiatrist had to evaluate his intelligence and to do so subjected him to a Rorschach test. Timothy not only allowed his imagination to run wild and free while looking at the abstract inkblot marks, he also recognized a formal affinity with his signature style of faces from his days on the streets of Philadelphia.

What began during a time of incarceration became not only an obsession with the psychological test itself, but also a gateway into learning to see anew and differently. Fascinated by the history of the test in psychoanalysis and its dubious application within the criminal justice system, Timothy began creating inkblots of his own, subverting the typical Rorschach test by using the test's intentionally abstract forms to depict recognizable faces.

**albertz benda**

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Joining a rich lineage of artists who have explored inkblots as a form of artistic production, including Francis Picabia and Andy Warhol, Timothy views the inkblot as an ever-evolving source of inspiration for new styles to represent his expanding kaleidoscope of emotions, sentiments, and figures. These new ideas have taken hold and demand their place in his artistic production every day – incorporated in his paintings of figures on bikes, another nod to his past, his life, and his friends' lives.

Thus, it all comes full circle: Timothy's life and work is in every single one of his paintings and every single one of his paintings is his life – they are interdependently intertwined. The Cat's Cradle wraps up an exploration he began a long time ago, first in an office, later in his cell, brought it into his studio and out into the world in his exhibition in Berlin, Germany and at the Armory Show in New York last year. I know – because I had the pleasure of seeing him grow as a person and an artist for the past 3.5 years. This exhibition invites new insight into where his journey goes next, and we are all invited to be part of it.

-Thorsten Albertz

## ABOUT TIMOTHY CURTIS

Timothy Curtis [b. 1982] is a self-taught artist from Philadelphia, who lives and works in New York City. Since establishing a focused studio practice in 2015, Curtis realized his first solo exhibition in November 2017 at Kaikai Kiki's Hidari Zingaro gallery in Tokyo, Japan, curated by Takashi Murakami. His work was debuted publicly in the U.S. at the Brooklyn Museum as part of the group exhibition *Coney Island Is Still Dreamland (To a Seagull)* by the artist Stephen Powers (2015-2016). Curtis had his first solo show in New York with albertz benda and was featured in group exhibitions including *The Pencil is a Key* curated by Claire Gilman at the Drawing Center, New York in 2019 and *THIS IS AMERICA* at the Kunstraum Potsdam, Berlin in 2021. Recent shows include *Timothy Curtis: Temporary Decisions* at Arndt Art Agency, Berlin (2020).

## ABOUT ALBERTZ BENDA

Founded in 2015, albertz benda is a contemporary art gallery with an international program exploring material and textility as well as cultural and social dialogues. Our Chelsea space is host to rotating exhibitions with an emphasis on solo presentations of emerging artists, new research into historic figures, and thematic group exhibitions.

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Opening hours: Monday - Saturday, 10am - 6pm

For further information or to request images, members of the media may contact Rachel Tretter

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