

Robb Jamieson Leather, Junk Food, Jeans. May 19 - June 25, 2016

Laroche/Joncas Gallery is pleased to present *Leather, Junk Food, Jeans*, Robb Jamieson's second solo exhibition with the gallery.

Jamieson's artistic practice is focused on the constant search of making art that critically uses stupidity as a political weapon. Much political art seems preachy and obvious; he hopes to avoid these typical problems by looking at issues indirectly and disarming viewers with humor. His choice of medium is dictated mainly by the idea and ranges from mixed media to drawings, sculpture and video.

Leather, Junk Food, Jeans brings together recent works on paper, stretched denim, and the return of a previous video character.

Unintentional performance art is everywhere and constantly inspires Jamieson's own output. His video practice has been influenced by the amateur use of digital recording technology and the posting of digital video content and photos on Internet sites such as YouTube and Instagram. His videos are based on improvised performance in order to reveal a more authentic, stupid moment. This is illustrated by the creation of self-centered characters as tools for different forms of performative exploration. For this exhibition Jamieson brings back Rebecca Ann Harris, a character he created for his graduation show at Goldsmiths College in 2007. Both the original video, *We Are All September 11th* (2007), and the new sequel, *Box Wine Waterfall* (2016), will be presented on two different screens.

Jamieson's drawing and mixed media work is inspired by tabloid magazines, comic books, and new age spiritual healing. He finds a deep satisfaction in harmonizing drawing, paint, collage, and small objects onto one 2-D surface. Collage allows Jamieson to molest and manipulate art history. He creates worlds where figures and abstract objects can co-exist. Jamieson also sees collage as a way of cannibalizing his own drawings and sketches, cutting, trimming and finally adding them to a larger tableau, making them better than how they were before. In these works, he glues higher-end materials such as linen, canvas, and leather onto paper.

Recently, Jamieson was given his grandmother's sketchbook, which she carried during a trip from Manitoba to Alberta at the age of 15, in 1939. Three collages in the exhibition contain carefully clipped out sketches by her, as a teenager. Jamieson sees the inclusion of these sketches as a way of interacting with his family past, and of publically celebrating something that would have ordinarily remained hidden.

New stretched denim pieces use culturally loaded materials such as denim, leather, and patches. Inspired by customized jean jackets associated with rock, punk, and biker gangs, Jamieson sees each piece as its own customized jacket. Instead of picking patches that related to obvious cultural signifiers, he leans towards more abstract, curious choices that are open to the interpretation of the viewer.

Jamieson graduated from Goldsmiths College in 2007 with an MFA in Fine Art and Concordia University with a BFA in Sculpture. Jamieson is the Curator of *Art POP*, the visual arts segment of *POP Montreal*, for the second year in a row. He lives and works in Montreal.