

# *Youth Hostel*

curated by Kathy Battista  
07.10. – 12.11.2022

marytwo proudly presents the group exhibition *Youth Hostel* curated by our dear friend and guest Kathy Battista. The show features new and ongoing works by artists Jamie Diamond, DonChristian Jones, Rachel Libeskind, Kristina Schmidt and Marika Thunder.

*Youth Hostel* is a group exhibition that was inspired by the energy and exuberance of the founders of marytwo. Curated by Dr Kathy Battista, the exhibition is predicated on an international youth hostel and the concept of transitory spaces. Known for short-term, low-cost stays, hostels are also temporary communities and places of refuge. Guests often stay in dormitory style rooms and interact with strangers, exchanging information, advice, and tales of their travels. They are transitional, social spaces with the potential for magical coincidences and at the least, social bonding; however, travel can also be an isolating experience as an outsider to a new culture. Before the age of the Internet and the advent of AirBNB, youth hostels were important mainstays for international travelers.

Combining notions of nostalgia, internationalism, and youth culture, the exhibition builds connections between young artists akin to the random meetings of travelers. The artists will share the gallery space, their work temporarily in dialogue with each other. Each artist was selected for producing work that relates to concepts of travel and transition as well as community and isolation.

**Rachel Libeskind** is an artist who lives and works in Berlin. A multidisciplinary artist, her research-based practice examines the construction of history and the enduring power of images. *The Traveling Bag*, in the words of the artist, is “an ongoing performance that is about stuff, suitcases, memory, and personal history”. It is an evolving work that was first performed in 2014 and has been staged at various venues around the world. Libeskind will perform on the opening night of the exhibition and a concomitant work and two new collages will be installed at the gallery for the duration of the exhibition.

**Jamie Diamond** is a New York based artist whose lens-based work explores themes of intimacy, fact and fiction, gender and identity. *Augusta Family* (2022) is a new work in her ongoing series *Constructed Family Portraits*. Titled after the hotels in which these photographs are shot, Diamond assembles strangers that she meets on the internet or in person who pose as family members in what seem to be banal portraits. The series questions notions of fiction and reality, as well as gender and family roles. *Augusta Family* was shot at the Augusta Hotel in Berlin and is seen for the first time at marytwo.

marytwo

marytwo  
Mariahilfgasse 2a  
6004 Luzern  
office@marytwo.one  
www.marytwo.one

Opening hours  
Saturday 1-6pm  
or by appointment

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**DonChristian Jones** is a multi-hyphenate artist, born and raised in Philadelphia, whose work takes the form of visual art, performance, music, and curating. Photographic and video work are from his series *The Politics of Mourning* (2018 ongoing), in which the artist created and archived solitary performances in the Italian landscape. The work is a response to the alienation and verbal abuse that he encountered on his extended trip to Italy. Shot entirely on an iPhone8, Jones' queer, black body becomes a metaphor for socio-political and individual strife as well as navigating foreign territory as an outsider.

**Kristina Schmidt** lives and works in Munich and New York. Her work often takes the form of figurative painting that depicts herself in a comic version performing quotidian tasks among abstracted domestic backgrounds. Schmidt's figures never confront the viewer and appear as universal psychological studies. In *Zügig ist die harmlose Form von schnell* (2022), she paints herself in the pose of the profile picture of Thomas Bernhard, a controversial Austrian author. Known for his harsh views on his native country and its history of genocide, Bernhard's loner protagonists often recite isolated monologues on a pessimistic state of the world. Schmidt's paintings are accompanied by a wall-based light sculpture that casts a sequence of moving light patterns.

**Marika Thunder** is an artist who lives and works in New York. Her work primarily takes the form of paintings that explore her personal history of a childhood spent between NY, Texas and Hungary. For Youth Hostel, Thunder's *Yeshiva Door 5* (2022) is taken from a photograph that she translated into a painting. The photograph was taken at a school for Hasidic boys in Westchester, NY. Thunder zooms in on a door, which is a poignant symbol of transition, in this case from the school to the outside, as well as from boyhood to maturity. Thunder's painting captures the theme of the exhibition, focusing on the universality of change and evolution through experience across time and locations.

Kathy Battista is a writer, educator, and a curator of exhibitions in museums, galleries, and non-profits. Her research is focused on cross generational feminist art, in particular performance and body-oriented practice. Most recently she has curated *Everything Has Its Place at Sevil Dolmaci Gallery*, Istanbul (2021), *you pinned me down like a butterfly on a wall* for Ballon Rouge at Pablo's Birthday, New York (2020), *The Art of Fashion* at Fountain House Gallery New York (2017), *Escape Attempts* at Shulamit Nazarian Gallery, Los Angeles (2017) and *E.A.T.: Experiments in Art and Technology* at the Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria (2015). She has authored numerous books, including: *New York New Wave: The Legacy of Feminist Art in Emerging Practice* (2019) and *Renegotiating the Body: Feminist Art in 1970s London* (2012).

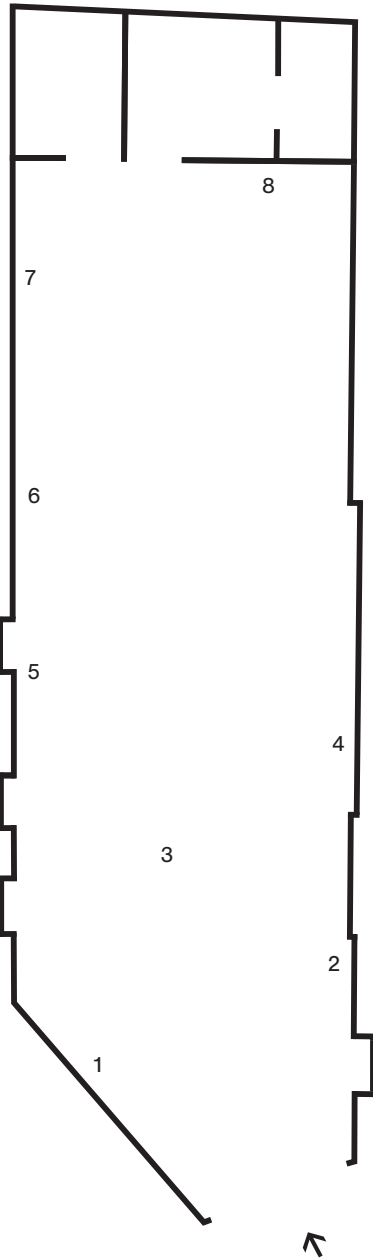
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# Floor plan

## Youth Hostel



- 1 Jamie Diamond  
*Augusta Family* (Germany), 2022  
Archival pigment print  
98 × 128 cm
- 2 Rachel Libeskind  
*The Evening's Sea*, 2022  
Scanned and printed collage on wooden stretcher bar, silicone, latex, linen, spray adhesive, super glue, staples  
41 × 35 × 4 cm
- 3 Rachel Libeskind  
*The Traveling Bag*, 2022 (2014–ongoing)  
Leftovers from the performance, mixed media  
Dimensions variable
- 4 Kristina Schmidt  
*Ushering in Banality Surf Version*, 2022  
*Züggig ist die harmlose Form von schnell*, 2022  
*Snap into an upbeat persona*, 2022  
Oil on canvas  
Each 48 × 33 cm
- 5 Kristina Schmidt  
*Liberty Bell*, 2022  
Cardboard, sugar, tape, microcontroller, electronics  
130 × 129 × 18 cm
- 6 Marika Thunder  
*Yeshiva Door 5*, 2022  
Oil and marker on wood panel  
76 × 61 cm
- 7 DonChristian Jones  
*Temple of Neptune at Paestum*, 2022  
*Port in Sciacca*, 2022  
*Aegean Sea*, 2022  
Video stills, inkjet prints mounted on aluminium  
Each 28.5 × 51 cm
- 8 DonChristian Jones  
*Factory Ruin*, 2022  
Video, colour, sound, loop  
9'  
Credits: Johane Lapraz as second camera