

I Want Some Action, I Want To Live!

A pop-up group show
Friday, March 14, 2025

Godspeed
193 Palmetto St.
Brooklyn, NY 11221

I Want Some Action, I Want To Live! is a pop-up group exhibition featuring work by Kate Awalt Conley, Claire Bentley, Annie Koval, Brooke Lord, Lee Schulder, Sabrina Szott and Hannah Why.

A reference to the 1978 disco track, I Love the Nightlife (Disco Round) by Alicia Bridges, **I Want Some Action, I Want To Live!** examines the traditions and absurdities of human connection and nightlife via playful imagery, writing, and sculpture. Depictions of social interactions, solitude, and isolation bring visibility to the nuance of our social lives. What does connection look like and does it look different from what we might think? How do we decide to present ourselves when we go out, who do we opt to become when we pull ourselves away from what is comfortable? What do we want when we go out and what do we get when we return home? Has technology affected our willingness to socialize with strangers? These interactions satiate the human need for belonging and connection, giving us the confidence to be able to say *we are living*. But does this make it true?

*I want to go where the people dance
I want some action, I want to live!*

*Action, I got so much to give
I want to give it
I want to get some too*

This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Chicago artist Lajuana Lampkins (1958-2025)

Artists

Kate Awalt-Conley

I make small oil paintings that use surreal moments to explore ideas of authenticity, performance, and queerness. I create highly detailed worlds that question the concept of the “authentic” self or image, and I explore how queerness is something that is actively performed in the world. Much of my practice is inspired by cyberfeminism and the ways we create digital avatars online—making usernames, editing pictures, or designing video game characters. Through these forms we interact with the world in different ways and as slightly different selves. My practice involves collecting images that span the mundane to the supernatural and letting them coexist. I aim to expand upon and re-negotiate reality, not just reflect it. After coming out as queer, moving to New York, and connecting with other queer artists, I began to view living and identity as art itself. I explore how queerness and art blur lines between fantasy and reality, merging life and art. I infuse moments of tension with humor, light, and color, emphasizing the production of my images and the exhibitionist nature of figurative painting, especially self-portraiture.

Claire Bentley is a writer and multimedia artist based in Brooklyn. Inspired by her curiosity of DIY spaces, parties, hosting and the anxieties surrounding these activities, she has been writing about the dynamics of socializing and nightlife since 2017. You can read her ongoing project, *How to Go Out*, on Substack. She loves Chicago (born and raised), 1980s pop culture, satire, and regional history.

Annie Koval

Lone Olive Longing

Looking out and inward
Found solitude in the grey winter
Fogged day, a stiff drink sits

A beloved rubber plant in crackling terracotta
On view in the neighborhood
Steeping smoke rises behind cornice crowns

Rubbernecking the apartments across the street
People staying in or seizing days
Or existing, simply, being,

I sip and stare, a rear window moment, avoiding glare
Olive drenched in desire for a care today

Brooke Lord is an artist and publisher based in NYC. **Other World Riso** is an experimental visual narrative and risograph publishing project started by Brooke Lord in 2023. Other World Riso started

as a self-published comic series about industrial techno music and queer nightlife, focusing on themes of sentimentality, self-discovery, and the liminal space of not being able to return and finding a way to move forward.

Madeline Rasmussen

One night I was at the bar and felt that familiar feeling that something wasn't quite right. I looked out the window and through the fog saw them making out for the first time. I've never been so disgusted in my life. In all my years of coming to this bar I have seen people swallowing doves, pulling ribbons out of sleeves, drinking 40 long islands in 3 hours, etc but I have never, and I mean never, saw something as repulsive as that.

Lee Schulder

I love when guys have fun with their freaky ass bodies. And I love to have fun myself

Sabrina Szott

Art is a way to express and distract. Painting has been a therapy for me to zone in on something besides what is going on in my brain or my reality or someone else's. Move your body, and the mind will follow. The 30,000 photos on my phone that I have taken over the years have helped me find ideas of what to put together. I like trying to capture the colors and subjects that are in the photos and seeing how it can be completely different than what was expected and that's okay! It's not so serious!

Hannah Why is a sculptor and visual artist from Chicago, IL, living in Brooklyn, NY. Her work grounds itself in Afrosurrealism and tactile language to explore the experiential terms of culture, identity, and their operations within a community. In *Dustbunny*, she examines themes of mortality, Black intergenerational trauma, and the cultural labor of Black femme identity, actualizing her perceptions of living and life occurring in the inbetween.