

Jeffrey  
Deitch

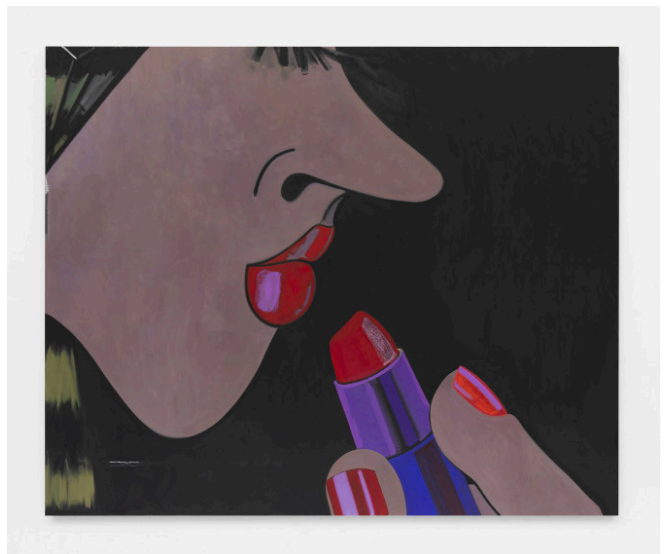
## ***ALL OF THEM WITCHES***

**ORGANIZED BY DAN NADEL AND LAURIE SIMMONS  
FEBRUARY 8 - APRIL 11, 2020  
925 NORTH ORANGE DRIVE, LOS ANGELES**

This exhibition arose from a conversation we've been having for years about our shared affinity for a certain kind of art to which we're drawn, can't quite name, but recognize when we see it. Artworks and artists that share an affinity with what we thought of as a "witchy" sensibility, which we see as using the iconography of the supernatural, occult, and witchcraft to channel ideas about power, the body, and gender.

The conversation began because Laurie was aware of Dan's interest in the history of graphic art and his insatiable desire to discover new work—often by lesser-known artists. She introduced him to the work of Auste Peciura, who showed her work in the adjacent gallery when Laurie had her first show at Artists Space in 1979. Discussing Auste led us to the mid-century gothic drawing and filmmaking, from Edward Gorey to Alfred Hitchcock, and that got us thinking about the work of contemporary artists who stirred up some of the same feelings; we discovered a shared passion for the paintings of Ellen Berkenblit, the sculptures of Niki de Saint Phalle, and the photography of Deborah Turbeville. This constellation of artists became the center of an ongoing game, a list to which we would add and subtract whenever we met.

This is how *All Of Them Witches*, was born, though it was many months before we had the idea for an exhibition and longer still before there was a concept and a title. The essence of the work seems to emanate from women, though there are certainly male and trans artists whose works fit the bill. The art touches on spells and incantations, wishes, and curses, though it needs a dose of adolescence to make sense in the context we've created. This crosses into works about or employing notions of gender, puberty, sex, the historical occult, cartoons, ritual, landscape, and fantasy. This iconography offers a recognizable foothold for makers and viewers alike in otherwise traditionally challenging subject matter and allusive poetics. This was the matrix we used to discern artists who shared an affinity with what we thought of as a "witchy" sensibility.



While we respect the history and context of real-practice occult, this is a show about the aesthetic influence of those traditions, not the actual practice behind it. Multiple generations and media will be present, from painting (Hollis Sigler, Gertrude Abercrombie), drawing (Heather Benjamin, Cameron), sculpture (Audrey Flack, Greer Lankton), videos (Marilyn Minter's *Green Caviar*), and photographs (Cindy Sherman, Bea Nettles).

In a time of constant historical and thematic artistic rediscoveries, we present a breadcrumb trail that already exists—a language shared across generations of artists who partake in a knowledge of, and taste for, a bit of the cauldron and a touch of darkness.

-Dan Nadel and Laurie Simmons, October 2019

The artists participating in *All of Them Witches* are:

Gertrude Abercrombie	Audrey Flack	Niagara
Tunji Adeniyi-Jones	Sylvie Fleury	Kayode Ojo
Janine Antoni	Anna Gaskell	Breyer P-Orridge
Auste	Tamara Gonzales	Maia Cruz Palileo
Sylvie Auvray	Trulee Hall	Ariana Papademetropoulos
Heather Benjamin	Allison Janae Hamilton	Kembra Pfahler
Ellen Berkenblit	Lyle Ashton Harris	Keisha Scarville
Judith Bernstein	Judith Hudson	Carolee Schneemann
Amy Bessone	Marguerite Humeau	Michelle Segre
Alison Blickle	Cameron Jamie	Cindy Sherman
Sascha Braunig	Jane Kaplowitz	Hollis Sigler
Melissa Brown	Caitlin Keogh	Aviva Silverman
Cameron	Aline Kominsky-Crumb	Xaviera Simmons
Ellen Carey	Suzu Lake	Emily Mae Smith
Sarah Charlesworth	Greer Lankton	Jack Smith
Judy Chicago	Judith Linhares	Kiki Smith
Colette	Michael Mahalchick	Nancy Spero
Myrlande Constant	Guadalupe Maravilla	Francine Spiegel
Niki de Saint Phalle	Juanita McNeely	Robert Therrien
Georganne Deen	Ana Mendieta	John Torreano
Jimmy DeSana	Marilyn Minter	Deborah Turbeville
Trenton Doyle Hancock	Shana Moulton	Andra Ursuta
Renate Druks	Jill Mulleady	Marnie Weber
Hayden Dunham	Willa Nasatir	Matthew Weinstein
Celeste Dupuy-Spencer	Shirin Neshat	Karen Yasinsky
Rachel Feinstein	Bea Nettles	Lisa Yuskavage

Image: Ellen Berkenblit, *Electric Lace*, 2018.

**WWW.DEITCH.COM**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT KATYA GAUSE AT (323) 925-3000, [KATYA@DEITCH.COM](mailto:KATYA@DEITCH.COM)