

# Trish Tillman “Grooming Kit”

April 26 - May 25, 2024



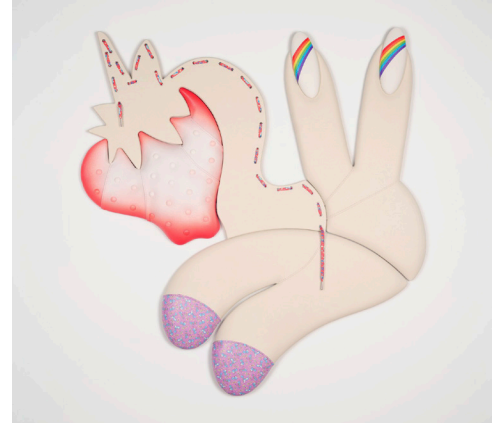
**Asya Geisberg Gallery** is pleased to present “Grooming Kit,” **Trish Tillman’s** fourth solo exhibition with the gallery and her first at the gallery’s new space at 45 White Street. With “Grooming Kit,” Tillman continues her interest in the intersection of the body, design, and furnishings, with her meticulously crafted modular wall sculptures. Using digital and industrial sewing and upholstery techniques, and hand-drawn patterns printed on leather, she expands her exploration of commercial materials and adds more personal references prevalent during her youth, from cartoons to toys and keychains. In Tillman’s latest series, disjointed body parts that could easily switch from breast to bum merge with iconic symbols of sweet innocence - from strawberries to unicorns - in a shorthand symbolic language akin to emoji or stickers.

The word “grooming” can have a dual meaning: one is something we do to ourselves, while the other is done to us. The exhibition explores the duality of actions, either benign or sinister. Tillman pairs childlike patterns and objects such as morphed cartoon characters with materials associated with rebellion, punk, and sexuality, such as vinyl, zippers, studs, and shiny metal accoutrements. Accordingly, the seemingly light and playful pieces have a dark undertone - as the artist explores shifts in power roles tied to the transition to adulthood and sexual exploration, consensual or less so.

The sculpture “Play Day” embodies youth, from the rainbow-painted nails in a peace sign to its “My Little Pony” shape. Tillman gives the figure little purple socks in a pattern she created of cartoon birds. The socks allude to children’s pajamas, an item of clothing that is both innocent and intimate. While there is a lightheartedness in the piece, a shoelace subtly dangles off the artwork, giving the sense that it could easily be undone, perhaps a metaphor for a delicate psychological balance. Meanwhile, “Nite Lite” shows a torso cinched in a corset and fishnet stockings. A phallic ceramic bottle based on an old apothecary item is painted the color of ceramic Siamese cats, placed to ward off evil spirits or unwanted touches. The symmetry and balance found in this piece and others relate to how traumatic events are often mixed with more positive emotions, counteracting confused feelings and giving a sense of control and self-empowerment. Through making the work for the exhibition, Tillman has moved through her own experiences. She says, “Focusing on what we choose to do with our experiences, rather than the trauma itself, can aid in how we create and shape our stories.”

The reassurance we seek as children can mask the complex and sometimes unwelcome reality inherent in how we grow; just as Tillman’s sculptures distill the active confusion of adolescence into a visual language of fluff and mettle, flounce and combat.

*Trish Tillman was born in Chicago and lives and works in New York. She received an MFA from School of Visual Arts and a BFA from James Madison University. Tillman has had exhibitions at Techne Arts Center, Oceanside, CA; Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, IL; University of Tennessee Downtown Gallery, Knoxville, TN; The National Arts Club, New York, NY; Fort Makers, New York, NY; New Discretions, New York, NY; The Arlington Museum of Art, VA; Visual Arts Center of Richmond, VA; Hilde L.A., Los Angeles, CA; Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Philadelphia, PA; CYDONIA, Fort Worth, TX; Real Tinsel, Milwaukee, WI; Fireplace Project, East Hampton, NY; Present Company, New York, NY; Cindy Rucker Gallery, New York, NY; Regina Rex, New York, NY; Emerson Dorsch, Miami, FL; Civilian Art Projects, Washington, DC; and Elephant Art Space, Los Angeles, CA; among others. Press includes Artforum, The Washington Post, Cultured Magazine, Sculpture Magazine, The Observer, Art F City, Vogue, Elephant Magazine, Juxtapoz Magazine, Art Spiel, and R Home Magazine. Residencies include the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, VA; Kala Chaupal Festival at Diggi Palace, Jaipur, India; and the Fountainhead Residency, Miami, FL. Tillman was a recipient of the 2019 Hopper Prize and the 2009 Joan Mitchell Foundation grant.*



Trish Tillman  
Play Day, 2024  
UV print on vegan leather, wood, foam, shoelace,  
metal hardware  
42h x 39w x 2.50d in



Trish Tillman  
Night Lite, 2024  
UV print on nappa leather, vegan leather, wood,  
foam, metal hardware, hydrocal, polymer clay,  
acrylic  
39h x 23w x 2.50d in