

JONATHAN LEVINE PROJECTS

Gangs, Tribes & Fraternities
Solo exhibition of works by **Prefab77**

888 Newark Avenue | Suite 344 | Jersey City, NJ 07306

May 13 — June 30, 2017
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 1, 6—8pm

JERSEY CITY, NJ (May 9, 2017) — Jonathan Levine Projects is pleased to present ***Gangs, Tribes & Fraternities***, an exhibition of new work by British artist **Prefab77** in what will be his debut solo show at the gallery.

Prefab77 creates mixed media work that merges imagery from popular and street culture into visually stunning and allegorical portraits. Recognized for motifs of beautiful women and repurposed symbols, his hard edged aesthetic is an anti-establishment reflection of money, power and politics.

His unique process begins by photographing a subject and reproducing the image through screen printing. He consequently adds numerous layers with an array of media, including acrylic paint, spraypaint, ink, wheatpaste and printing, playfully combining both digital and analog techniques. His fascination with multi-layered compositions stems from his time living in New York City. He describes, *"This period of my life is central to my imagery. Living on Elizabeth Street in Nolita in the transitional '90's, between rough and ready door dwellers to armed guarded jewelry stores, I fell in love with the layers of tags and posters that, over the years, created a neglected, urgent, idiosyncratic and incidental beauty."*

This new body of work, which includes pieces on canvas, paper, wood and metal, expresses abstract ideas similar to the way a modern fable tells a story of warning. The artist elaborates, *"Gangs, tribes and fraternities....we all belong to one of them at some point as it's human nature to band together. Mankind has an innate desire to tribe, to belong, build do it yourself fraternities that cause havoc among rivals historically, now and always."*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Peter Manning is a British artist currently based in the United Kingdom. He started his career as a printmaker and designer for Her Majesty in the British Army. He continued working as a designer for well-known fashion brands while also organizing exhibitions at Elektrik Sheep Gallery for street artists such as Banksy, Eine, Eelus and Pure Evil. He's exhibited at galleries throughout the world, including Canada, Detroit, Ibiza and San Francisco. His work has been commissioned by Converse, Gap, Hurley, NIKE, Keds, and Ride Snowboards. In 2011, he created the cover art for *Dancing Backward in High Heels*, fifth and final studio album by the New York Dolls.

ABOUT JONATHAN LEVINE PROJECTS

Jonathan Levine Projects is committed to new and cutting edge art. Our roots go back to 1995 when Levine's life-long participation in punk and underground music grew into a curatorial experiment with the visual culture that surrounded him. In 2005, he opened Jonathan Levine Gallery in the Chelsea district of New York City and had great success nurturing the careers of many celebrated artists. In 2017, the gallery relocated to Jersey City with a newfound focus on community and collaboration. The newly named Jonathan Levine Projects is located within Mana Contemporary, a leading arts organization dedicated to celebrating the creative process. We aim to create engaging programs and partnerships beyond our gallery space, such as public murals and pop-up exhibitions. With an eye towards honoring and connecting with the history and context of Post War art, Jonathan Levine Projects explores the terrain of the high/low and everything in between.