

MEG TURNER

“Queerness is not yet here. Queerness is an ideality. We may never touch queerness, but we can feel it as the warm illumination of a horizon imbued with potentiality. We have never been queer, yet queerness exists for us as an ideality that can be distilled from the past and used to imagine a future.”
—José Esteban Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia*

Meg Turner: Here and Now is the artist’s first solo museum exhibition. The installation, including over 100 portrait tintypes of artists, activists, teachers, school mates, friends, lovers, and near-strangers, documents a self-selected community who over the past five years have elected to participate in Turner’s photographic project to advance and approach utopia. Photographed with backdrops of fantastic(al) landscapes and fabricated sets, participants and collaborators are invited to embody the politics of gender, sexuality and economic autonomy they desire. The images serve to capture both histories and imaginary worlds that expand the reach of support systems commonly and traditionally provided by immediate communities linked by school, church, family, and neighborhood. Photographing and processing every tintypes and subsequent

print by hand, Turner approaches her practice as a series of deliberate actions in the service of an alternative and ever-expanding community of care. The installation includes a hand-constructed building bearing likeness to the Smith Tire building on St. Claude Avenue and Frenchmen Street in New Orleans’s Seventh Ward. Echoing the architecture of early roadside service stations and the oft-mythologized American highway, the neon lights and hand dyed wooden archway advertise its offerings for both subsistence and pleasure, free of charge. Over the course of the exhibition, the artist will use the installation as backdrop for more photographs that will, in turn, be incorporated into the installation. *Meg Turner: Here and Now* is an invitation to experience and to join the photographic record of a fragile and potential utopia.

HERE AND NOW



Meg Turner, *The Unseen Boxer*, from the “Tuff Enuff” and “Patricide” series, 2015. Tintype, 4 x 5 in. Made in collaboration with Courtney Webster



Meg Turner, *Griffin*, from the “Tuff Enuff” series, 2016. Tintype, 4 x 5 in.



Meg Turner, “Live Erotic Tintypes” series (at *Always For Pleasure*, *New Orleans*), 2015. Tintype, 4 x 5 in. each



Meg Turner, *Vanessa*, from the “Tuff Enuff” series, 2018. Tintype, 4 x 5 in.



Meg Turner, “Sometimes We Call it Goth Beach” series, #1, #2, #7, 2015–2017. Tintype, 4 x 5 in. each



Meg Turner, *Big Liz*, from the “The Actual Truth” series (at *Here & Now*, *Wallach Gallery*, *New York*), 2018. Tintype, 4 x 5 in. each



Meg Turner, *KB*, from the “Tuff Enuff” series, 2015. Tintype, 4 x 5 in.



Meg Turner, *Reina Terra*, from the “Tuff Enuff” series, 2018. Tintype, 4 x 5 in.



Meg Turner, “The Actual Truth” series (at *The Dark Show*, *Re(art) gallery*, *New York*), 2018. Tintype, 4 x 5 in. each



Meg Turner, *Owen Ever*, from the “Tuff Enuff” series, 2015. Tintype, 4 x 5 in.

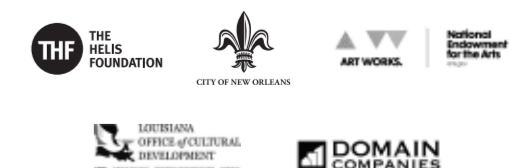
Meg Turner: Here and Now

November 2, 2019–April 12, 2020

The exhibition is organized by the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC), New Orleans, and curated by Andrea Andersson, Ph.D., The Helis Foundation Chief Curator of Visual Arts at the CAC.

The exhibition is supported by The Helis Foundation, Sydney & Walda Besthoff, and Domain Companies. Additional funding is provided by the Visual Arts Exhibition Fund with generous contributions from The Azby Fund, Bryan Bailey, Valerie Besthoff, Walda & Sydney Besthoff, Anna & Scott Dunbar, Kendall Winingder and Patrick Schindler, Aimée & Mike Siegel, and anonymous donors.

This exhibition is also supported in part by a Community Arts Grant made possible by the City of New Orleans as well as by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal agency.



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