



Identical

Curatorial

Identical: The Sublime Arts of Joel-Peter Witkin and Jerome Paul Witkin

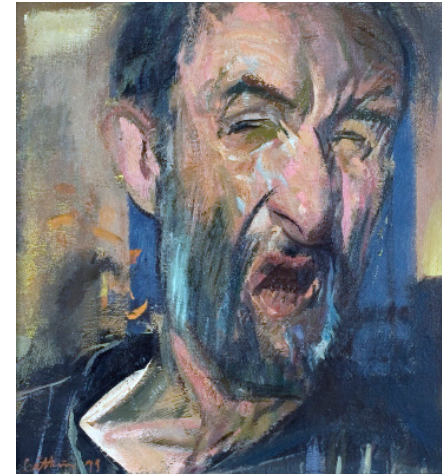
A traveling exhibition curated by Nissan Perez

Joel-peter witkin is renowned as the creator of elaborately-staged and often erotically charged tableaux exploring grand themes of religion, sex and mortality. His provocative and sometimes dark imagery is frequently populated by people marginalized by society including dwarves, persons with extraordinary physical attributes and deformities, hermaphrodites, and other “outsiders,” and created a sensation when first shown in early 1980s at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, and at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



Joel-Peter Witkin, Self Portrait,

Jerome paul witkin has been drawn to paint since childhood, and is the recipient of many prizes, including two Ford Foundation Grants, a Guggenheim, and a Pulitzer Fellowship. His paintings, often made on large-scale canvases, have been cited by many as being among the great narratives in contemporary art, dealing with apocryphal events such as the Holocaust and 9/11. Jerome Paul Witkin has been compared to Lucien Freud, Manet, Ingres, and Goya for both his technical mastery and psychological insight.



Jerome Paul Witkin, Self Portrait II,

identical twins reared apart, it is said, are even more alike than those reared together. This is unquestionably true for the Witkin twins, Joel-Peter the photographer, and Jerome Paul the painter. As brothers who grew up separately, largely unaware of the other's artistic output, they have not shown their work side by side, until recently, exposing an uncannily powerful connection. Deep existential questions are tightly bound in the complex psychology and memory their art explores through their shared themes of trauma and healing.

As unforgettable as it is powerful, *Identical: The Sublime Arts of Joel-Peter Witkin and Jerome Paul Witkin* explores the psychologically creative bond between the two brothers. *Identical* reveals a dialogue between dark and light, good and evil, the sacred and the profane.

Jerome Paul imagines the personal angst of Van Gogh, or the horror of Nazi concentration camps during WWII, which he masterfully paints in excruciating detail on canvas. Joel-Peter, considered a master of tableaux vivants, physically stages subjects that might include hermaphrodite persons, flayed corpses from the dissection table, or biting satirical lambastings of political figures in their "created" hell, where his photographic actuality appears more like fiction. These largely symmetrical but distinctly powerful visions spring from both artists' boundless imaginations, replete with apocalyptic visions of horror, trauma and ultimately healing. Visceral, compelling, and inspired by the Old Masters, the work of both artists holds representations of the raw and unflinching representations of the human body as points of departure for exploring themes of religion, sex and mortality, provoking an indelible emotional and psychological response from the viewer.



Jerome Paul Witkin, *Vincent and His Dream Girl*, 2012

Joel-Peter Witkin first created a sensation with major exhibitions of his work at the Stedelijk Museum (1983) and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (1985), depicting marginalized people such as dwarves, hermaphrodites, persons with unusual physical attributes and deformities, and other societal “outsiders.” Jerome Paul Witkin has been compared to painters such as Lucien Freud, Manet, Ingres and Goya, for his technical mastery and the psychological force of his figures. His paintings, often made on large-scale canvases, are among the great narrative works in contemporary art.

The exhibition spans four decades and includes early and recent works by both artists. Iconic photographs by Joel-Peter Witkin include “Olympia” (1974) and “Las Meninas” (1987). Jerome Paul Witkin’s masterful large painting “The German Girl” (1997) and “Kill-Joy: To the Passions of Käthe Kollwitz” (1975-1976) will be among his important works shown in this exhibition, joined by early drawings of the mid-1980s, examining the emotional state of an artist’s torment, featuring Van Gogh as his famous subject.



Joel-Peter Witkin, Photograph from Purgatory- Two Women with Stomach Irritations, 1982

the exhibition

booking

CATE
exhibitions@curatorial.org
626.577.0044

cost sharing

Participation fee plus prorated shipping

number of works

74 artworks
(paintings, drawings, gelatin silver prints,
mixed media)

sizes

From 20 x 24 inches (50 x 60 cm) framed works to mural size
canvases 6 x 16 feet (2 x 5 meters)

space requirements

Approximately 220 linear feet (68 linear meters)

the curator

nissan perez is an independent photography historian, consultant and curator, who served for nearly four decades as Senior Curator of Photography at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, where he conceived and created the department of photography and its extensive collection of over 120,000 items. During his curatorial career he conceived of and curated over 180 exhibitions in Israel and worldwide and published a substantial number of books, catalogs and articles.



Joel-Peter Witkin, Love in Post-Modern Oblivion, 2011



Jerome Paul Witkin, Young Father, March 1943, 1996 (detail)



Jerome Paul Witkin, Young Father, March 1943, 1996



Jerome Paul Witkin, *Are You Here (Sue Ades Posing)*, 1985



Joel-Peter Witkin, Poussin in Hell, 1999



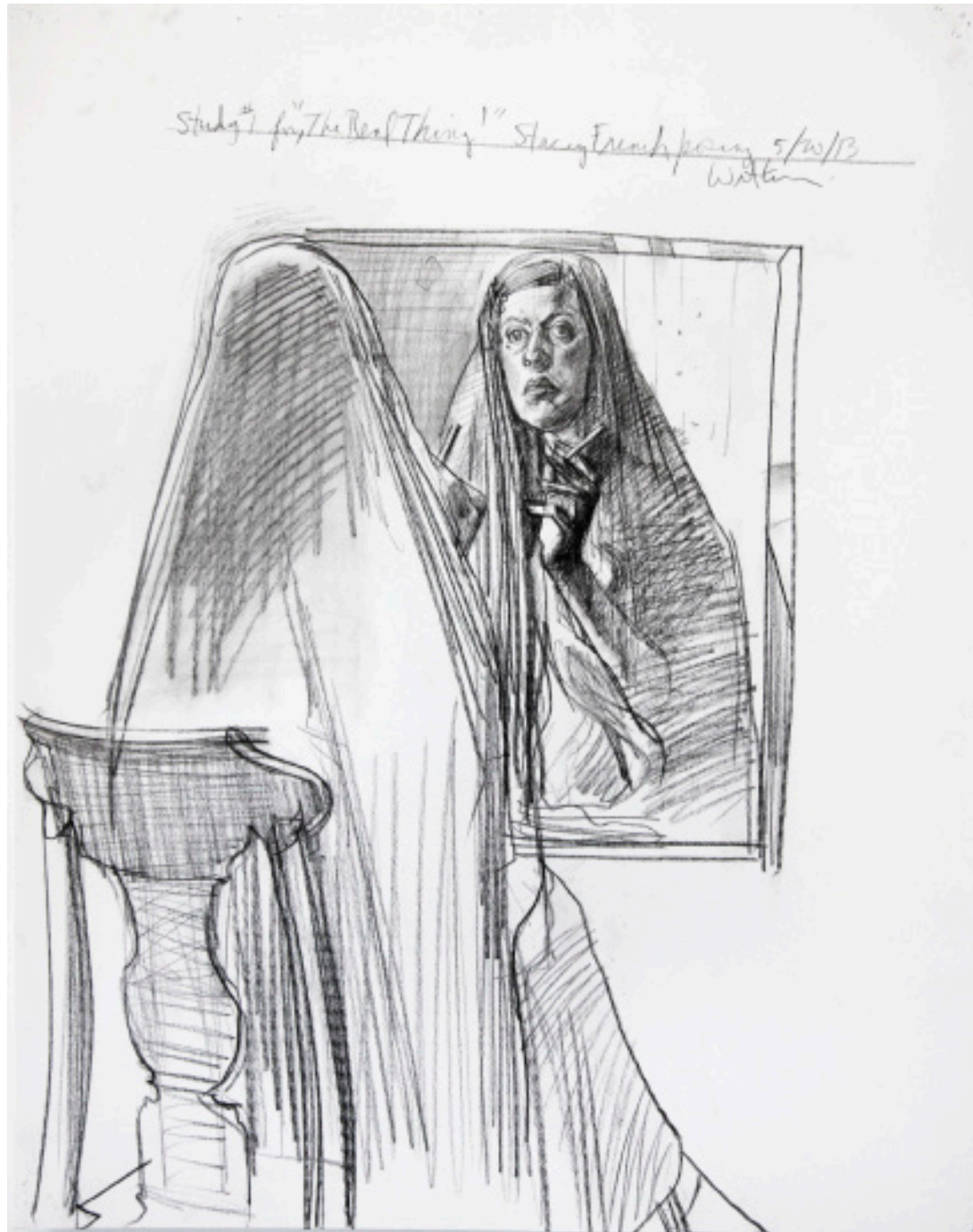
Jerome Paul Witkin, In the Drawing-Studio, Carla Posing, 2003



Joel-Peter Witkin, Man Without a Head, 1993



Joel-Peter Witkin, Man Reflected, Paris, 2007



Jerome Paul Witkin, Study #1 for "The Real Thing," Stacey French Posing, 2013



Joel-Peter Witkin, *Un Santo Oscuro*, New Mexico, 1987



Jerome Paul Witkin, Looking: Bob Bersani in the Studio, 2006



Jerome Paul Witkin, Table #7, Corpse, Buchenwald, 1945, 1991



Joel-Peter Witkin, *Corpus Medius*, 2000



Joel-Peter Witkin, *The Aleph*, 2001



Jerome Paul Witkin, *Unseen and Unheard (in Memory of All Victims of Torture)*, 1986



Jerome Paul Witkin, Studies... Amputations for The Butcher's Helper, 1941 – 1945, 1991



Jerome Paul Witkin, Armchair, 2008



Joel-Peter Witkin, Female King, 1997



Jerome Paul Witkin, *After Division Street: The Fallen Man*, 2015



Joel-Peter Witkin, Above the Arcade, 2013



Jerome Paul Witkin, Study for Saint, 2015



Joel-Peter Witkin, Prudence, Paris, 1996



Joel-Peter Witkin, Presenter of the End of Time Awards, 2013



Jerome Paul Witkin, St. Fichera, 1987

Curatorial Exhibitions is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for access, outreach, and education in the visual arts through the origination and circulation of diverse and innovative exhibitions for museums and art organizations worldwide. Our organization fosters collaborations between public and private resources by developing traveling exhibitions that expand public opportunities to view and experience significant works of art. Formed in 2000, Curatorial Exhibitions has toured more than 500 exhibitions to over 850 art venues worldwide.

113 East Union Street
Pasadena, California 91103

exhibitions@curatorial.org
+1 626.577.9696

Curatorial