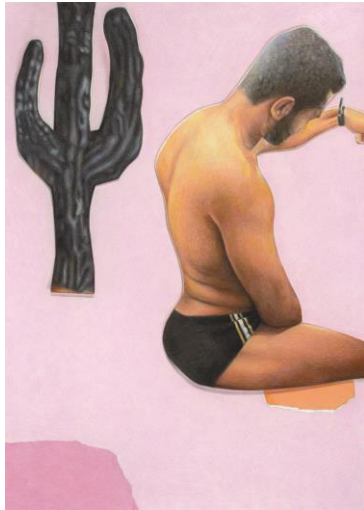


PRESS RELEASE

Joe Sinness: the Flowers

Latest MAEP exhibition explores sexual desire, utopic queer space



Joe Sinness, *Untitled (pose 2)*, 2017, colored pencil on paper. Courtesy the artist © Joe Sinness. (Left)

Joe Sinness, *Chris*, 2017, colored pencil on paper. Courtesy the artist © Joe Sinness. (Right)

Minneapolis Institute of Art
2400 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
artsmia.org

Minneapolis, June 26, 2017— The Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program (MAEP) at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) presents “the Flowers,” an exhibition by artist Joe Sinness that explores sexual desire and cinematic performance. On view July 20 through October 29, 2017, the show captures the beauty of communities that historically have been ostracized.

Inspired by old Hollywood, vintage physique magazines, and iconic films like *Cruising*, starring Al Pacino, “the Flowers” features portraits, still-lives, cinematic panoramas, and theatrical sculptures. Sinness’s portraits capture real people who become fantasy characters in ethereal, idealized spaces where they confront and entice the viewer. Meanwhile, his still-life drawings act as stages for queer performance, sometimes blurring into panoramic, filmic scenes; at other times, recalling traditional portraiture; and occasionally, evolving into strip tease. The sculptural pieces bring cruising spaces into the physical location of the gallery.

The show conceives and pursues a vision of utopic queer spaces, without shame, where the actions depicted and the performers involved are seen as beautiful and empowered.

About the artist

A resident of Minneapolis, Joe Sinness earned a B.A. from St. John’s University in Collegeville and an M.F.A. from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He was part of the MAEP exhibition “Flourish” in 2010, which also featured works by Jennifer Davis, Erika Olson Gross, and Terrence Payne. Sinness is the recipient of 2013 and 2017 Artist Initiative Grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, a 2013/14 McKnight Artist Fellowship for Visual Artists, and a 2015 Fire Island Artist Residency.

About Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program

Founded in 1975, the [Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program](#) (MAEP) is a curatorial program of the Minneapolis Institute of Art, dedicated to exhibiting and supporting artists living and working in Minnesota. MAEP is now located in Mia’s U.S. Bank Gallery.

Mia

Press Contacts

Michaela Baltasar

+ 1 612 870 3280

mbaltasar@artsmia.org

Tammy Pleshek

+ 1 612 870 3171

tpleshek@artsmia.org

About The Minneapolis Institute Of Art

Home to more than 89,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest wide-ranging art collections in the country—Rembrandt to van Gogh, Monet to Matisse, Asian to African—Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration.

General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee.

Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 10am–5pm

Thursday, Friday 10am–9pm

Sunday 11am–5pm

Monday Closed

For more information, call + 1 612 870 3000 or visit artsmia.org

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