

# Chris Minard

chrisminard.com | @chrisminardart

Superfine! Art Fair, NYC Sept. 30 – Oct. 3, 2021

*“The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea” preview*



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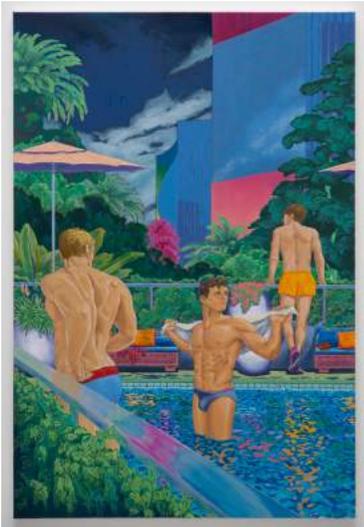
instagram

## **About “The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea” series**

The series takes its name from the Harold Arlen/Ted Koehler song, "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea," an American Songbook standard bemoaning an attraction that would be abandoned if it wasn't so inescapable. Careful glances, ambiguity, voyeurism, and a sense of the unknown mingle in these paintings, capturing quiet moments surrounding the figures' narratives; wistful daydreaming, waiting, wondering, daring.

Like the series' upbeat yet melancholic namesake, the worlds of these paintings are richly colored, rendered in a fluid blend of realism and the fantastic, like a memory. In each work, the settings sometimes recalling familiar queer haunts (Fire Island, Palm Springs) or more ambiguous locations (metropolitan rooftop pools, tropical retreats, isolated getaways, lavish bathtubs) but all, inescapably, feature water. It variously draws, taunts, reflects, distorts, obscures or menaces the figures. Uniquely rendered in each painting, from glassy to inky, gently rippled to frothy, water offers clues to the psychologies of the young men sharing the space.

This consistent subject matter explores the various properties we associate with water - its movement, power, ability to cleanse, drown or support life, withhold or erase – and the changes and rituals we undergo to engage this new environment, which mirror those of youthful sexual awakening; testing, teasing, looking for clues before committing ourselves, then jumping in and coming out in a fundamentally different state. We reveal ourselves in water. We are freed and made vulnerable by giving into its deep blues.



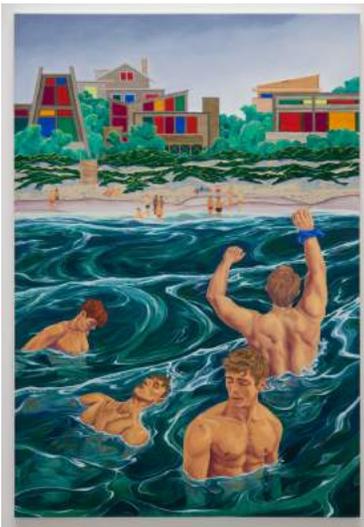
***Another Metropolitan Fruit Fly***

48 x 30 in.  
oil on linen  
2020  
\$4,200



***A Pair of Great Green Fairies with Reflecting Orbs***

48 x 30 in.  
oil on linen  
2020  
\$4,200



***Schooling at the First Signs of Weather***

48 x 30 in.  
oil on linen  
2020  
\$4,200



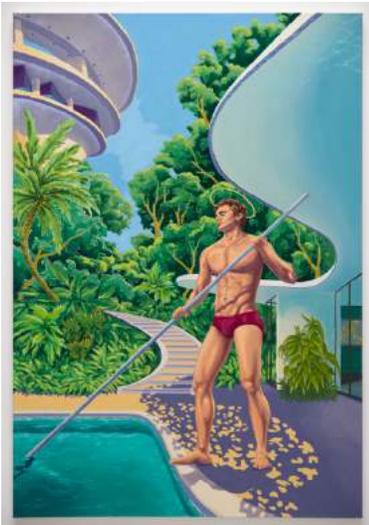
***Skylarking, or How Good Light Always Finds Them***

48 x 40 in.

oil and oil stick on linen

2020

\$4,800



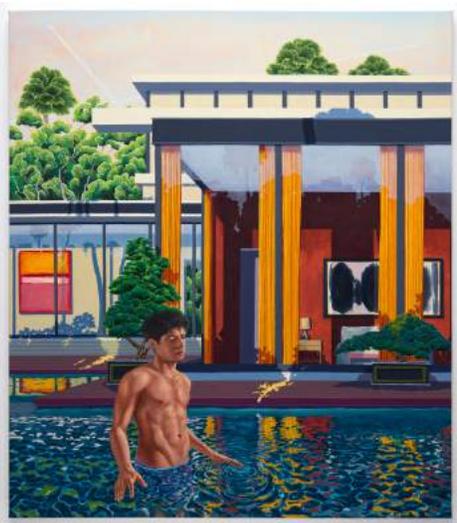
***The Pool Boy's Ecstasy***

48 x 30 in.

oil on linen

2021

\$4,200



***Holding Onto the Threat of a Good Time***

60 x 48 in.

oil on linen

2021

\$6,800



***For Attention***

48 x 40 in.

oil and oil stick on linen

2021

\$4,800



***The Great Pretender (Did I Dream You  
Dreamed About Me?)***

48 x 30 in.

oil on linen

2021

\$4,200



***West Coast Bender, or the Debate to  
Wake Him (Somebody Call Yolanda)***

30 x 26 in.

oil and oil stick on linen

2021

\$3,500



***The Houseguest with Two Pools***

40 x 36 in.

oil and oil stick on linen

2021

\$4,800



***Nocturn (Lautner's Pool)***

8 x 6 in. image on 11 x 15 in. sheet

etching and aquatint on Hahnemuhle paper

edition of 20 + 5 AP, 3 HC

2021

\$350

### About the Artist

Originally from Sedona, Arizona, Chris Minard (b. 1985) now lives in New York City.

Typically working in series by developing on a theme or title, his painting, drawing, and printmaking focus on quiet moments or pauses between actions; realization, reflection, cautious voyeurism, allusive intimacy. Inspired by music, literature, queer histories and culture, along with his background in design for theater and film, the young men who populate his work are found amid vivid natural environments and architecture, framing and sometimes countering enigmatic narratives through which he can celebrate and relate to their stories of vulnerable softness.

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### Solo Shows

2021 “The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea” Superfine! Art Fair, NYC 2020

2020 “The Mattachine” Superfine! Art Fair, NYC 2020

### Publications

2021 (forthcoming) *Studio Visit Magazine*, volumes 49 & 50

(forthcoming) *My Gay Eye | Mein schwules Auge*, issue #18 “Outdoors”

(forthcoming) *Create! Magazine*, issue #27

### Education

2008 BFA, Savannah College of Art & Design