

Disarm

Benefit show and night of readings

All artist proceeds donated to Gays Against Guns

52 Bridge Street, Dumbo, Brooklyn
November 23rd and 24th, 10-6 and 10-7
Opening and readings: November 23rd 6-8:30
Readings interspersed through the evening



Patrick Alston, *Hosea 4:6*, 2019, Mixed media on canvas, 26 x 28 inches

Works can be purchased at the show, or online from November 25th-December 9th
<https://reenevalenti.com/section/485710-Disarm-Benefit-Show-for-Gays-Against-Guns.html>

This is a two-day benefit show and night of readings in response to ongoing gun violence in the United States. It is a collaborative action by all artists and writers involved. Readings will be responding directly or indirectly to the issue, and all artist proceeds will be donated to Gays Against Guns. "GAG is an inclusive, direct action group of LGBTQ+ people and their allies committed to nonviolently breaking the gun industry's chain of death—investors, manufacturers, the NRA and politicians who block safer gun laws." <https://www.gaysagainstguns.net/>

"'No Way To Prevent This,' Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens"-The Onion

There is seldom a time where I would quote The Onion to make an intro for something that is as heavy of a subject as mass shootings in the United States. But when first reading this right after one of the many shootings in recent years, it stuck with me. How was a satirical paper speaking more truth about what is occurring while many of our politicians keep putting their hands up and sweeping their responsibility under the rug? Why was it that our politicians were more often sending "thoughts and prayers" instead of taking the appropriate action? Why are the leaders of our country saying that there is nothing that can be done?

The idea for this show began in August after the two mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton. However, in addition to the ongoing mass shootings, we know that gun violence in the U.S. includes and extends beyond these, encompassing many types of violent crime, unwarranted killings by law enforcement, and suicide. There are the behind the scenes, or not so hidden, causes of gun violence in the U.S.- mental health issues, domestic violence, social constructs, racism, homophobia, and political rhetoric. How do we come together as a nation to create healing and change? Although it's not possible to address all of these issues within one show, this exhibition is an effort to as address some portion of these issues through our work by supporting others that are organizing larger efforts in amending gun legislature, and by prompting further conversation.

-Renee Valenti, organizer and artist

Participating Artists:

Patrick Alston

Alteronce Gumby

Pamela Sneed

Lauren Altman

Marina Leybishkis

Jannell Turner

Ti Cersley

Ali Medina

Renee Valenti

Ian Faden

Manuel Oliver

Reagen Wilson

Alex Gingrow

Lidija Slokenbergs

For inquiries contact: Renee Valenti reenevalenti@gmail.com