

MATTHEW MARKS GALLERY

523 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10011 Tel: 212-243-0200 Fax: 212-243-0047

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Magic Ben Big Boy: Lutz Bacher, Nayland Blake, Vincent Fecteau**

February 22 – April 20, 2019

Opening: Thursday, February 21, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Matthew Marks is pleased to announce **Magic Ben Big Boy: Lutz Bacher, Nayland Blake, Vincent Fecteau**, the next exhibition in his gallery at 526 West 22nd Street.

Conceived by Vincent Fecteau, the exhibition centers on a re-creation of the artist's first one-person show, "Ben," originally presented twenty-five years ago at Kiki, a short-lived but influential artist-run gallery in San Francisco's Mission District. (A copy of the original checklist is attached). The title "Ben" comes from a 1972 movie and its theme song of the same name, sung by Michael Jackson. A love song from a boy to his pet rat, it became a #1 hit single and was nominated for an Academy Award. The works in the exhibition include collages of found photographs of cats, sculptures made from old shoeboxes, and eggshells painted to look like eyes.

Two important works made in San Francisco a few years earlier by Nayland Blake and Lutz Bacher are installed in the adjacent galleries. Bacher's sculpture *Big Boy* (1992) replicates an anatomically detailed stuffed doll, like those used in child-abuse assessments, but expands it to larger than human size. Blake's *Magic* (1990–91) is an assemblage featuring Madame, the puppet star of Wayland Flowers's 1980s sitcom *Madame's Place*. At the time of "Ben," Fecteau was working as an assistant in Blake's studio. "Magic is one of my favorite pieces from that period of Nayland's work," says Fecteau. "Nayland also introduced me to Lutz when she approached him about finding someone to help fabricate *Big Boy*." Fecteau worked on Bacher's sculpture in his bedroom for several months before it was finished with help from a costume designer for the San Francisco Opera.

Lutz Bacher lives and works in New York. Bacher's work has been the subject of one-person museum exhibitions in Düsseldorf, Vienna, and New York, and has been included in three Whitney Biennials.

Nayland Blake (b.1960) lives and works in New York. Blake's work has been the subject of one-person museum exhibitions in San Francisco, Houston, and New York, and been included in the Whitney Biennial and the Venice Biennale. In September the most comprehensive survey of Blake's work to date will open at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Vincent Fecteau (b.1969) lives and works in San Francisco. Fecteau's work has been the subject of several one-person museum exhibitions, most recently in Vienna and Basel, and has been included in the Carnegie International and two Whitney Biennials. In 2016 Fecteau was awarded a MacArthur prize.

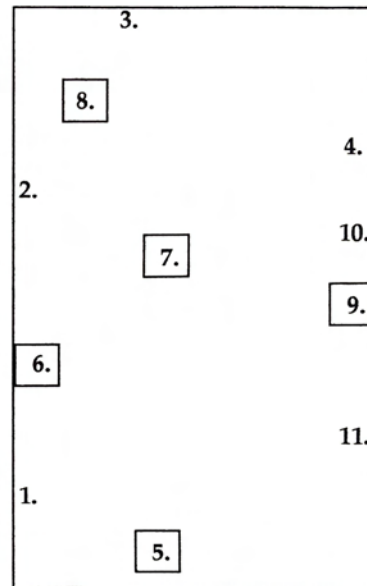
**Magic Ben Big Boy: Lutz Bacher, Nayland Blake, Vincent Fecteau** is on view at 526 West 22nd Street from February 22 to April 20, 2019, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

For additional information, please contact Ted Turner at 212-243-0200 or [ted@matthewmarks.com](mailto:ted@matthewmarks.com).

**"BEN"**  
**NEW WORK BY**  
**VINCENT FECTEAU**

MAR 1 0 1994

- |                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1. CHORUS #1              | \$200       |
| 2. CHORUS #2              | \$200       |
| 3. CHORUS #3              | \$200       |
| 4. CHORUS #4              | \$200       |
| 5. Shirley Temple Room #1 | \$200       |
| 6. Shirley Temple Room #2 | \$200       |
| 7. Shirley Temple Room #3 | \$200       |
| 8. Shirley Temple Room #4 | \$200       |
| 9. Shirley Temple Room #5 | \$200       |
| 10. Dramatization         | \$150       |
| 11. Re-enactment          | \$100       |
| 12. eggs (untitled)       | \$75 a pair |



Ben, the two of us need look no more  
 We both found what we are looking for  
 With a friend to call my own  
 I'll never be alone  
 and you, my friend, will see  
 You've got a friend in me

Ben, you're always running here and there  
 You feel you're not wanted anywhere  
 If you ever look behind  
 and don't like what you find  
 There's something you should know  
 You got a place to go

I used to say, 'I am me'  
 Now it's 'us', now it's 'we'

Ben, most people would turn you away  
 I don't listen to a word they say  
 They don't see you as I do  
 I wish they would try to  
 I'm sure they'd think again  
 If they had a friend

A friend like Ben

"Ben's Song" - Don Black & Walter Scharf

*front of gallery*

**"Red mutant eyes gazed down on Hunger City  
 No more Big Wheels  
 Fleas the size of rats sucked on rats  
 the size of cats"**

**Future Legend - David Bowie**

All works for sale. Cash and personal checks accepted.

Kiki      483 14th Street      San Francisco California      (415) 863-KIKI