

# LAUNCH F18

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## **JESSICA YATROFSKY** **ABUSE BOUQUET**

June 17 – August 27, 2022

Press Release

LAUNCH F18 is honored to present ABUSE BOUQUET, a solo exhibition by Brooklyn based artist, Jessica Yatrofsky. This special exhibition opens to the public on Friday, June 17, 2022 and remains on view until August 27, 2022. ABUSE BOUQUET proudly marks the first collaboration between the gallery and Yatrofsky.

ABUSE BOUQUET has been an ambitious and major undertaking by Yatrofsky. Featuring photography, painting, poetry, neon sculpture, installation and video work, the exhibition chronicles an untold and remarkable story by the artist. Looking inwardly, Yatrofsky boldly examines her life with candor, criticism, and incredible transparency.

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Calling upon her past, ABUSE BOUQUET takes note of the various stopping points in Yatrofsky's life, from when she competed in the Miss Teen Nevada USA pageants as a child, to a letter threatening expulsion from Parsons School of Art and Design during her time in college. The works within this exhibition combine the complexity of her experiences in her past, and channel them in a way which provides insight for our present-day lens.

Collectively, the works exhibited in ABUSE BOUQUET are meant to pose the question of what it means to simultaneously accept and resist what is feminine. The answer is an assertion of power not only by Yatrofsky but by any 21st century artist, born on the eve of the millennium. Captured deep within the diversity of media Yatrofsky uses for this exhibition, the survey like curatorial approach highlights the artist's ability to break from any sort of constraint, and to apply these questions in deeply intimate, thoughtful, and challenging ways. By utilizing text, video, photography and painting, ABUSE BOUQUET extends its visual information into multiple avenues, challenging not only Yatrofsky's narratives but the way the mediums themselves are thought of.



*Golden Thrown*, 2022. (left). *Miss Photogenic 1997*, 2022. Dye Sublimation print (right)

The uniqueness of Yatrofsky's collective body of work, is in the telling of these personal experiences. As the artist explores these live-events through the work exhibited in ABUSE

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BOUQUET, they carry with them a remarkable truth. Combining a sense of vulnerability and delicacy with the strength to nearly shout and scream, these experiences and stories share a genuine and sincere articulation of our shared human emotions.

**Jessica Yatrofsky** is an NYC-based photographer, filmmaker, poet, and author, known for her work exploring body politics, beauty, and gender. She received her MFA from Parsons the New School for Design and published her first photography monograph, *I Heart Boy*, with powerHouse Books in 2010 and her second photography monograph, *I Heart Girl*, in 2015. In 2017 she published her debut collection of poems titled *Pink Privacy*. Jessica's photographic work is part of the permanent collection with the Leslie Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art and the Museum of Sex. Her photography work has been exhibited overseas and her film work has been both televised and screened at film festivals internationally. Jessica's writing has also been featured in publications such as Forbes, Interview, and New York Magazine.



Jessica Yatrofsky. *In her studio, Brooklyn, NY*

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**Top Image:** *Contestant Number 19, 2022. Video still.*