



Over the Influence presents

Thomas Linder Strangers

Exhibition dates: 26 June – 1 August 2021



Thomas Linder *Neon Sign*, 2021. Oil on cowhide. 182.9 x 182.9 cm. 72 x 72 in.
Courtesy of the Artist and Over the Influence. Photo credit the Artist.

Over the Influence is pleased to showcase US artist Thomas Linder's exhibition *Strangers*, which is the artist's first show with Over The Influence. The exhibition signifies a new direction for the artist, featuring works created in the past year. This series explores an entirely new medium and concept for Linder, whose practice was shaken up, and developed in new and interesting ways in the last year. The show will be on view from 26 June to 1 August 2021.

In a year that was restrictive in so many ways, Linder found a personal freedom in his studio practice. He focused less on the "why", and more on the "why not" within his creative process. In a move away from his prior work, this series is more representative of his personality and sense of humour- the approach is less academic, and more intuitive. He combines elements of surprise with comedy to explore the tensions that are created by pairing unexpected images and materials together.

The conception of *Strangers* occurred when Thomas experienced a moment of "Pareidolia", or the phenomena of perceiving faces and figures within natural forms. Thomas' encounter with this sensation began when he perceived a non-existent cowboy on an empty cowhide. Linder took this experience and ran with it in his practice, exploring how objects and ideas can fit within one another and how these superimposed images are simultaneously humorous, and slightly uncomfortable.

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Linder is inspired by the iconic aesthetic of signage found along the highway system and car culture. One of the original ways for Americans to interact and be advertised to on a mass scale. These major highways became places to share messages, ideas, and of course, sell products. Therefore, designers and business owners were forced to work within the limited abilities of neon and paint to create signs and billboards that were simultaneously engaging and aesthetically interesting, while also being informative and easily comprehensible.

Linder is also influenced by Surrealist objects, which were generally created through a combination of found objects and materials that were then transformed into pieces that challenged the artistic norm and created humorous and provocative works of art. He continues this legacy by utilizing found objects, and combining paint with cowhides to create works that exist somewhere between painting and sculpture.

Although the works in this series may exist independently of one another, they are consistent in that they all speak to an intuitive practice that is centred around humour, and an exploration of the tension created by pairing unexpected images and material together.

Artist Bio

Thomas Linder was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1986 and now lives and works out of his studio in Los Angeles., California. He is the Co-Founder of the Artist-Run Gallery, BBQLA. He received his BFA in Sculpture and Community Arts from Kansas City Art Institute as well as an MFA from Bowling Green State University. His work has been exhibited nationally including solo shows at Ibid Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA (2017), and Maple Street Construct, Omaha, NE, USA (2019). And group shows at Wilding Cran Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA; Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA USA and Ochi Projects, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Location

833 East 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Press Contact

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