



Over the Influence presents

Alison Blickle

Killer

Exhibition dates: 14 August to 18 September 2021



Alison Blickle, "Blue Dream", oil on canvas, 2021, 158 x 177 cm, 62.5 x 70 in. Courtesy of the Artist and Over the Influence. Photo credit Jeff Mclane.

Over the Influence is proud to present American artist Alison Blickle's debut solo exhibition with the Los Angeles gallery. *Killer* explores female archetypes by reimagining Maenads from Greek mythology as living in the modern day City of Angels, and recontextualizing them through a feminist lens. The exhibition is on view from 14 August to 18 September 2021.

In Greek mythology, the Maenads were the female followers of Dionysus, the God of pleasure and fertility. Their name translates as "the raving ones". The women roamed the natural landscape performing orgiastic dances to release their souls temporarily from their earthly bodies as means to commune with the divine, all the while experiencing extreme rapture in their trance-like state of ecstasy.

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The Maenads threatened Ancient Greece's status quo of gender roles, for they were sexually liberated, aggressive, and ultimately free. Greek playwright Euripides' drama *The Bacchae* portrays the Maenads in their throes of delirium, tearing men apart with their bare hands who attempt to stop their ritual. Blickle reimagines them as fully fleshed women who are part of the Time's Up and Me Too movements. These modern Maenads use their phones and social media to destroy the toxic masculine.

Killer brings together these powerful archetypes and places them in a contemporary context, as if the Maenads are living today in the Hollywood Hills. Women who are confident and strong in their sensuality and have a take no prisoners approach to life.

Drawing references from David Lynch, Surrealism, Punk Culture, Rave Culture, Blondie, and Artemesia Gentileschi, the paintings embrace a rich color scheme filled with purples, crimsons, and lavenders— colors that allude to the darker side of female sexuality. In Blickle's reimagining of *The Bacchae*, Maenads are 21st century women who band together in sisterhood to tear down the patriarchy. *Killer* celebrates these women's fierce independence as they live their lives unapologetically and with hearts wide open.

Artist Bio

Alison Blickle has exhibited widely in the United States and Europe, with recent solo exhibitions at Kravets Wehby Gallery in New York and Five Car Garage in Los Angeles. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at MOCA Tucson, Nassau County Museum, Deitch Projects, New York University, The Hole, and Beers London. Alison received an MFA from Hunter College in New York in 2009, and a BFA from California College of the Arts in San Francisco in 2006. She currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

Location

833 East 3rd Street
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