

Ben Wannamaker x CONTRAPPOSTO

“Selfie Immolation”



@eatwithagun

@contrappostomagnetics

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“Selfie Immolation”

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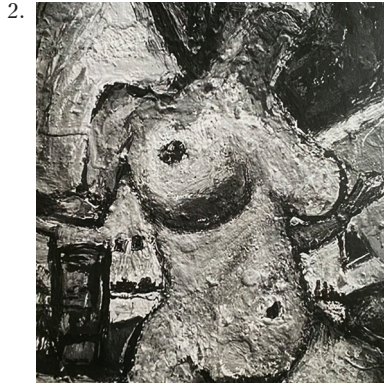
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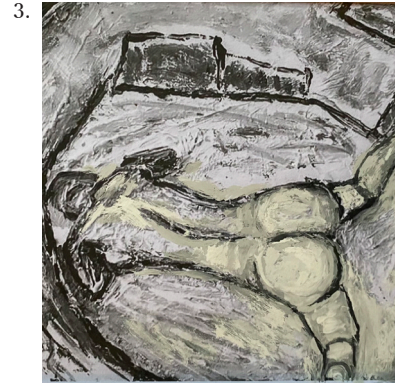
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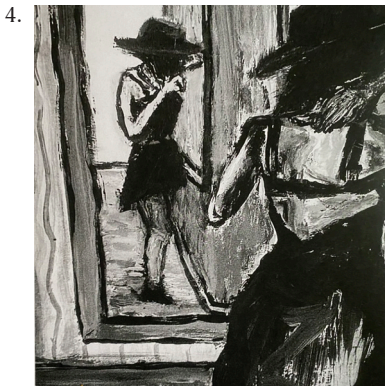
Vacuums of Distress, 2023
 acrylic, ink and oil stick on glass
 11 x 30 in
 \$75



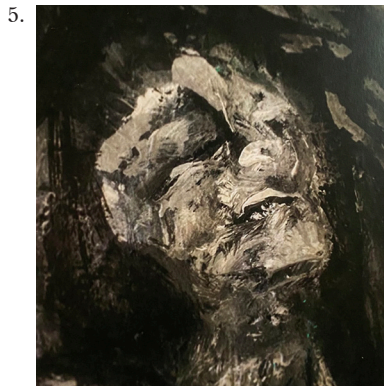
Sleep Up A Sweat, 2019
 inkjet print on cardstock
 framed and signed
 8 x 10 in
 \$55



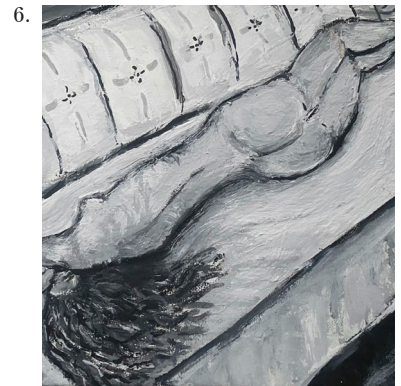
A Celebration of Silence, 2018
 inkjet print on cardstock
 framed and signed
 8 x 10 in
 55\$



Huddled in Scrum, 2021
 hand embellished acrylic,
 graphite on inkjet print on cardstock
 framed and signed
 10 x 8 in
 \$85



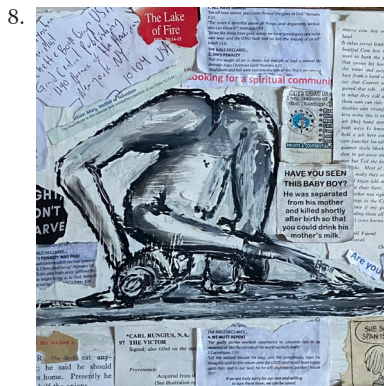
“It Almost Makes Me Jealous When I Realize It Will Never Be Me.” 2019
 inkjet print on cardstock
 framed and signed
 8 x 10 in
 \$55



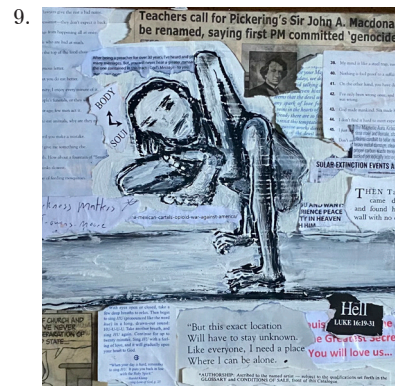
As On There Own As Us, 2023
 graphite and acrylic on canvas
 10 x 12 in
 \$100



Cryptic Title, 2022
 oil stick and acrylic on canvas
 12 x 10 in
 \$100



A Celebration of Silence, 2018
 inkjet print on cardstock
 framed and signed
 8 x 10 in
 \$55



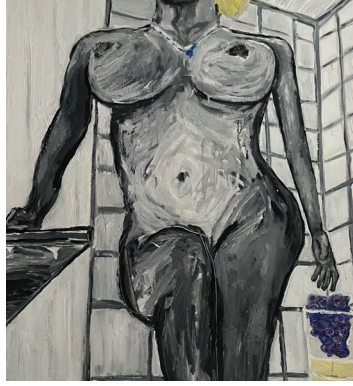
A Nose for Pleasure, 2022
 oil stick and acrylic on glass
 15 x 13 in
 \$100

10.



Compassion Mechanics, 2023
oil stick and acrylic on glass
16 x 13.5 in
\$90

11.



Firework Science, 2019-2023
acrylic and oil stick on canvas
30 x 40 in
\$550

12.



That Was That Was That, 2020-2023
graphite, acrylic and
oil stick on canvas
48 x 48 in
\$850

13.



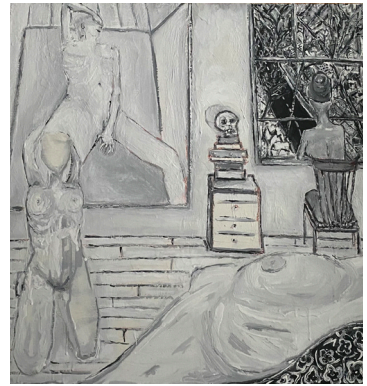
"I'll Follow You. I'm Done Following Me. It's Sucking." 2019-2023
oil stick and acrylic on canvas
13 x 16 in
\$150

14.



There Will Be More But For Now That Is All, 2023
oil stick and acrylic on canvas
20 x 16 in
\$175

15.



Interrupted Discovery, 2022
acrylic and oil stick on canvas
24 x 24 in
\$250

16.



"Wait, We Gotta Wait?" 2023
graphite, oil stick and acrylic on canvas
20 x 17 in
\$175

17.

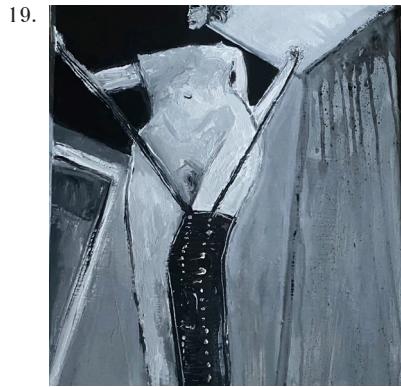


The Conductors, 2021-2023
oil stick and acrylic on canvas
18 x 16 in
\$175

18.



Roaring Toward an Afternoon Cat, 2022-2023
graphite, oil stick, aerosol and
acrylic on canvas
16 x 20 in
\$225



19.

The Deadly Ones Are Usually Silent, 2022-2023
graphite, oil stick and acrylic on glass
21 x 25 in
\$100



20.

The Actor Has a Human Moment, 2019- 2023
graphite, oil stick and acrylic on canvas
20 x 17 in
\$225



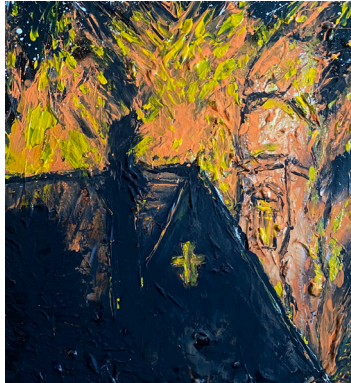
21.

Ghost Story, 2023
oil stick and acrylic on canvas
15.5 x 19.25 in
\$200



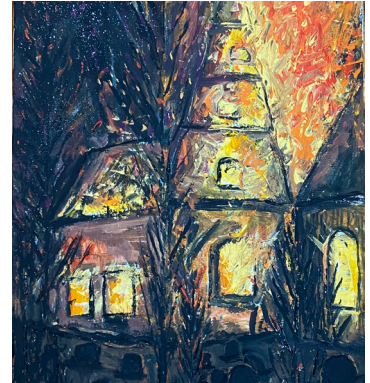
22.

You Started It, 2023
oil stick, medium, aerosol
and acrylic on canvas
16 x 29 in
\$375



23.

Metronome in a Mosh Pit, 2023
oil stick, aerosol and acrylic on canvas
24 x 36 in
\$350



24.

Anyone But Alone, 2023
oil stick, aerosol and acrylic on canvas
9 x 12 in
\$200



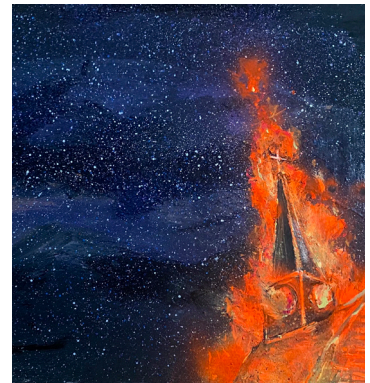
25.

"I Don't Want To Hate My Life Until I Die" 2023
oil stick, aerosol and acrylic on canvas
12 x 16 in
\$175



26.

Curiously, There Was No Pain 2022
oil stick and acrylic on canvas
18 x 24 in
\$200



27.

Starry Night, 2023
acrylic, aerosol and oil stick on canvas
24 x 16 in
\$550

- *Names*

Think about naming your child
with the personal style in which
you plan to inevitably greet your grave.

Now wouldn't that be nice?

To create a new schism for
the individual to prepare themselves
metaphysically?

For example: With Courage,
Reflecting on Achievements
and Surrounded by Love
could become
Ian, Sue, Brian.

Rather: In Due Time,
Considerably Exhausted,
Drifting In, On Fumes.
Imagine Empty and Admired
are a fledgling pair upstairs,
or two fraternal twins
who refuse to stop playing.
Hypothetically Satisfied,
a beautiful girl.

In A Lake, Fishing,
Weak From Rain, Drowned By Wind,
Entirely Distant and Simultaneously Myself
all trundle down the stairs for dinner.
Some land lighter than others. Trying, specifically.
Innocent, Unexpectedly,
With No Legacy To Speak Of and Happy About It
are particularly obnoxious.
Their entry reflects their insatiability.
And why not introduce Old and Broken While Not Saying A Word,
With A Singular Mixture of Pride and Humility,

To Music that Playboys Play To,
Under Four Double Whiskies,
Wondering Why Everyone Looked So Glum,
Smothered by Gifts,
Set Against a Brick Wall, Throne Broke Beneath,
After Claiming to be a Prophet,
With Undeterred Exploration Until Too Lost.
Or even: After Leatherlips (Accused of Witchcraft By Christians,)
Summoning Demons, Left for Ravens,
At Long Last, With Winter Over, Terminating Misery, Flesh Corrupted,
A Noble Conspirator, Covered in Mud, Showing Every Sign Of Life,
Falsely Accused by Peers, Diffused of Responsibility,
Accused of Cowardice Dissent and Desertion.

Still Particularly Robust,
En Reclusion Perpetua,
In A Long Period of Decrepitude
or Zero Agerasia

Please state your presence: Genomic Instability, Telomere Attrition,
Epigenetic Alterations, Loss of Proteostasis, Deregulated Nutrient Sensing,
Mitochondrial Dysfunction, Cellular Senescence, Stem Cell Exhaustion,
Altered Intercellular Communication, Oxidation Damage to Cellular Contents
and Caused by Free Radicals.

Understanding the Unavoidable Consequences of Entropy,
Picked Clean By Unscrupulous Profiteers, Drugged Numb,
Avoiding a Feared-Self, Thinking Maybe I Dreamt It, Being Fed,
Inhaling,

Entering Through a Straw, Anything But Afraid,
Anyone But Alone, At Least Understood,
Yourself, Still,
Feisty.

Now wouldn't that be nice?

Press Release

“Selfie Immolation” is a series of acrylic, oil stick and aerosol paintings, prints, mixed media collage, sculpture, appropriation and photography by Toronto artist Ben Wannamaker and will be shown at She Said Gallery, Toronto, from February 3-21, 2023.

Wannamaker has worked in many mediums including both fiction and non-fiction writing, music, sport and food. He has shown in numerous group shows since 2016 when he first started his studio practice but “Selfie Immolation” is his first solo visual art exhibition to date. Self-trained, Wannamaker’s “Selfie Immolation” represents a series of exercises in medium, application and subject matter but the focus of the three motifs presented at She Said this February are: monochrome figures in unlavish environments, landscapes at night with buildings on fire and a series of mixed media collage works with photo transfers, high relief sculpture, found objects and acrylic paint on skateboard decks. The skateboard ‘brand’ CONTRAPPOSTO is “just another excuse to make work. Another outlet,” he says, and the forty+ works in the show all share themes of mythologizing his every day; it’s politics and history, cohabitation, dependance and domesticity, self awareness, self deception and the unglamorous and fetching moments that are all involved in the generally weird and rich experience of being a person.

A staple of Wannamaker’s practice is that he works with urgency, is indiscriminate when it comes to material and uses what is most accessible: dollar store paint, thrift store canvas, appropriated and repurposed manifestos and cries for help found tacked to telephone poles in the street and much more. His domestic scenes of figures are seen from above and below, often from a convex, “fisheye” lens, which alludes to Wannamaker’s love of skateboarding in which the fisheye view of the world is ubiquitous. It is also a nod to pioneers of perspective and ‘painter’s painters’ like Frank Auerbach and John Currin. The characters in his paintings are partners, friends, lovers, strangers on the internet, people from his imagination and they exist in unsurprising, everyday domestic scenarios: the bedroom, the bathroom, the kitchen. The characters can be surreal, relatable, grotesque, carnal, passive, sad, empowered or absent all together. The suite of church paintings is the most recent direction in Wannamaker’s practice and is once again an exercise in exorcism and the mythologizing of experience. It’s a mining and analysis of the remembrance, acceptance and constant attempt to understand what it means to be a comfortable white man born and raised on Canadian soil. The brushwork and application of the paint matches the content: the stars are tranquil, placid and innumerable while the fire is applied with spontaneity and angry active gestures, brush, finger and force.

Contact

For all pricing and detail inquiries, email Bentevents@gmail.com with the subject line: “Selfie Immolation” as well as your mailing address + any inquiries in the body of the email.

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647 202 9204

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bentevents@gmail.com