



Mittens

31 x 23 inches

Oil on Canvas

Price available upon request

Jonathan Virginia Green

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Bio

Jonathan Virginia Green (b. 1989) is a visual artist currently living in Fayetteville, AR. He uses his art to explore mechanisms of desire, pleasure and transformation that are oriented within his experience as a queer transgender male. His practice includes painting, drawing and video. He graduated from the University of Tulsa with a BFA in painting in 2011. After graduation, he was awarded a scholarship to attend the Chautauqua School of Art for a summer residency. For two years (2017-2019) Jonathan served in a voluntary position as the Art Gallery Director for Oklahomans for Equality, an LGBTQ+ advocacy organization in Tulsa, OK. Currently, he is working to complete his MFA degree in painting at the University of Arkansas where he was awarded a Graduate Fellowship. Following graduation, Green plans to pursue a career in non-profit advocacy that supports his community as well as continuing his work as a studio artist.

Artist Statement

The early Surrealists believed that desire was the most crucial dimension of the unconscious, and that desire was the most authentic voice of the inner self. I too, believe in the authenticity of desire and am intrigued by the power of eroticism. Oriented within a queer/transgender experience, my practice explores the transformative potential of eroticism as expressed by desire and transgression. I create art to destigmatize shame around dissident sexuality because I believe that all aspects of our lives, especially those that are most intimate, have value. I crave control and discipline in a world where so little is within our control. I strive to invoke the erotic from the position of painting. Its materiality, directness and intimacy imbue the work with erotic intention. The work heavily references leather culture (S&M, kink, fetish, etc.) as I am interested in the overlapping concerns between painting and leather. As practices they are driven by aesthetics, invested in material, and can be physically and/or psychologically transformative. I want to bridge erotic desire and aesthetic investment. To create a painting from the ground up that is rooted in desire – my own desire, and to allow for that desire to determine a painting's structure is to queer painting.