

# MARTOS GALLERY

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## **Aura Rosenberg** ***I Know It When I See It***

February 22 - March 30, 2013

Opening Reception: Friday, February 22, 6 - 8 pm

Performance 7 pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Martos Gallery is pleased to announce Aura Rosenberg's first exhibition with Martos Gallery.



The Golden Age:

More than twenty-five years ago. I made paintings based on images from pornographic magazines. These publications featured fantasy narratives enacted by a cast of porn stars with elaborate sets and props. When I returned to this material, a few years ago, I found that the magazines were no longer being published. When I googled the names of some of the actors, what came up was, "The Golden Age of Porn"—a period extending from the late 1960s to the mid '80s.

Palettes:

These carry an inadvertent set of marks, made with the intention of mixing a color for a painting.

The Astrological Ways:

You could once tell time by looking at the starry sky. Celestial bodies formed patterns that told you the time of year. Celestial bodies, our bodies. A black light poster from 1972, *The Afrological Ways*, links sex positions with astrological signs. Based on this poster, couples cover their bodies with paint and imprint them into black velvet. There is one painting for each sign.

A line drawing of a giraffe from Freud's *Sexual Enlightenment of Children*:

This case study, published in 1909, describes the analysis of little Hans, who developed a phobia of horses at age 5. Hans's father, a follower of Freud, undertook the treatment of his own son.:

*I draw a giraffe for Hans ... He says to me, "You must draw his widdler." (Hans's name for penis.) I reply, "Draw it yourself." At this Hans adds a new line to the picture of the giraffe, which at first he leaves short but then adds another line to it, remarking, "His widdler is longer than that."*

The analysis ultimately reveals Hans's sexual desires for his mother along with feelings of jealousy and aggression towards his father. The recognition of these feelings leads to a cure.

In the movie *Goldfinger*, M asks Bond: "What do you know about gold?" Bond replies, "I know it when I see it."

Aura Rosenberg lives and works in New York and Berlin. Recent solo exhibitions include *Sometimes* (works of art), New York, and *Sassa Trülzsch*, Berlin. Recent group exhibitions include *"Flaming Creatures"*, Julia Stoschek Collection, Düsseldorf, *"Too Old for Toys, Too Young for Boys"*, curated by Alex Gartenfeld, OHWOW, Los Angeles, *"White Petals Surround Your Yellow Heart"*, curated by Anthony Elms at ICA Philadelphia, *"Creature From the Blue Lagoon"* organized by Bob Nickas, Martos Gallery, Bridgehampton, and *"These Transitional Spaces"*, curated by Seth Kelly at Franklin Street Works, Stamford. Other exhibitions include MoMA PS1, The Swiss Institute, The Sculpture Center, and White Columns, New York; NGBK, Berlin; bb3 (Berlin Biennale 3), Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin; Kunsthalle St. Gallen, St. Gallen; KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; Pera Museum, Istanbul; Kunsthaus Centre d'art, Switzerland; Macro Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome and Salzburger Kunstverein, Austria, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg among many others. Rosenberg has published three volumes of photography, *Headshots* (Stop Over Press), *Berlin Childhood* (Steidl Verlag/D.A.A.D.), and *Who Am I? What Am I? Where Am I?* (Hatje Cantz Verlag).

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