

JENNSINGER GALLERY

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Jenn Singer Gallery
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Gallery Hours

Tuesday – Saturday: 11am – 6pm
Appointments suggested



Kaylin Andres | *Viaticum IV*, 2016 | Edition of 3 |
Photograph on organza over stretched felt

Kaylin Andres: *VIATICUM*

On View: June 4 – June 30, 2016

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 4th, 5-8pm

Jenn Singer Gallery presents *VIATICUM*, a solo exhibition of emotionally charged work by 31-year-old NYC based artist **Kaylin Andres**, co-curated by **Ricardo Kugelmas**. Diagnosed eight years ago with Ewings Sarcoma—a rare bone cancer—Andres has undergone countless rounds of radiation, chemotherapy and surgeries. While battling her own terminal illness, she's advocated for young adults with cancer and has been featured on NPR's The Takeaway, BBC Radio, MTV, The Huffington Post, and Planet Cancer. Andres' background in fashion design helps inform her visual art work, which combines photography with textiles, embroideries with hair lost from the side effects of chemotherapy and handmade reliquaries inspired by her own spiritual journey of healing and survival.

Viaticum is the receiving of the Eucharist before death—the last rites. Pagans, predating Christianity, would place a coin in the mouths of the deceased as a toll for the underworld. The viaticum can be considered provisions for a journey—it is meant to provide spiritual sustenance and safe passage. According to Joseph Beuys, art possesses curative properties; the function of art is to heal. The creation of the work in the exhibition is Kaylin Andres' own viaticum—sustenance for the spirit, fuel to keep going regardless of her prognosis.

The series of self-portraits in *VIATICUM* are from a recent pilgrimage to Brazil to see the renowned Spiritist medium Joao de Deus or "John of God". Andres' work reflects her fascination with the connection between art and birth, and the physical and spiritual worlds. Andres believes to make art is to take from one's inner world and make it material—to give it life in the physical realm. John Keats said that poets are the midwives of reality. Our thoughts and feelings are diaphanous and ephemeral, yet our creation can be sensed and shared. With this we can communicate what is otherwise unknowable and save what would otherwise be lost. As the artist or midwife functions as a bridge to another world, so, too, does the medium vacillate between material and immaterial.

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Nineteenth century mediums displayed an emesis of cloth from various orifices, known as ectoplasm—the physical manifestation of the soul. Many mediums used methods of swallowing and regurgitating cheesecloth, textile products smoothed with potato starch and in other cases the ectoplasm was made from paper, cloth and egg white or butter muslin. Andres' work captures this manifestation in her ethereal portraits on organza.

In Brazil there is a long history of Spiritism, a mysterious mélange of Catholicism and shamanistic mysticism—the belief that the medium is a conduit for spirits, and those spirits have the divine ability to heal. It is said that faith healer Joao de Deus conjures the spirits of the greatest doctors throughout history to perform psychic medical miracles. Kaylin Andres was, and still is, in need of a miracle. Her journey to Brazil was as much about finding hope as it was about finding a cure. This exhibition is the same. It gives Andres hope and encourages her to continue her journey and serves as a fundraiser to help support her as she does.

The artist would like to thank Brazilian photographer Marina Najjar for her collaboration on the project.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Kaylin Andres received her BFA at California College of the Arts in 2010. While pursuing a career in textile & fashion design, Andres was diagnosed with a rare bone cancer called Ewings Sarcoma. In subsequent years, she has battled numerous reoccurrences and is now considered terminal. During this time, Andres transitioned from fashion to visual art, collaborating and working with many influential artists.

In her previous exhibition in 2014, *Chemosynthesis*, Andres explored themes of Vanitas and the transformative properties of illness. Her journey as a young adult with cancer is chronicled on the MTV series *World of Jenks*, and in her colorful graphic novel *Terminally Illin'*, published by Last Gasp.

Andres has garnered a large audience through her blog, *Cancer is Hilarious*, where she documented her years of battling cancer with unnerving honesty and a heavy dose of sarcasm. She has worked with notable fashion designers such as Betsey Johnson and Rachel Antonoff, and collaborates with visual artists in NYC. Kaylin Andres continues to advocate for young adults with cancer, and has been featured on NPR's *The Takeaway*, BBC Radio, MTV Act, *The Huffington Post*, and *Planet Cancer*.

ABOUT THE GALLERY:

Jenn Singer Gallery's diverse program features emerging and mid-career contemporary artists, as well as a selection of artworks by established post-war modern artists. Recent exhibitions have been featured in *Wallpaper**, *Cultured Magazine*, *VICE – The Creator's Project*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Hi-Fructose*, among others. The gallery is located in New York City's historic Gramercy Park neighborhood.

"One of my cultural finds this summer is the Jenn Singer Gallery, a boutique bijoux of a small space, masterminded by the petite gallery owner Jenn Singer. The gallery may be modest but it offers art on a grand scale..."

- Polly Guerin, author, columnist & blogger, August 2015

For additional images / information, please contact the gallery: info@jennsingergallery.com

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