

# Stephen Friedman Gallery

## Frieze New York 2022

Jonathan Baldock  
Booth B17

19–22 May 2022

The Shed  
545 West 30th Street  
New York  
NY 10001



Stephen Friedman Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by **Jonathan Baldock** for Frieze New York 2022.

Saturated in humour and wit, spanning themes of mortality and sensuality, Baldock's practice explores our relationship to the body and the human condition: The artist focuses on the contrast between the material qualities of ceramic and fabric and removes their functional aspects. Working in a performative way through sculptural assemblages, Baldock brings the viewer, the object, and the space they simultaneously occupy into question as a theatrical act.

The artist's monumental installation, 'Facecrime (suspect)' comprises a group of stacked ceramic columns. Evoking ancient ruins, these hand-crafted forms reflect Baldock's interest in myth, storytelling and folklore. The cobalt blue shimmers and glows with a spiritual, alchemical quality. The physicality of the piece is met with humour. Protruding from the column's glazed surfaces are casts from Baldock's body: disembodied ears, beckoning fingers, and hands pushing and punching in mid-air. Audible groans, whistles and chuckles stream through concealed speakers.

Additionally presented is a series of ceramic masks that evoke theatre and the psychological potency of hiding and revealing different aspects of one's identity. Created in human scale, they feature bright colours and outlandish expressions.

'All bodies are good bodies' reflects Baldock's belief in "the power of making things through the bringing together of head and hand," contesting the sentimentality associated with craft and the hand made. Hovering between the cognitive and carnal, this exhibition captures childhood fears and adult desires, toying with elements of the surreal and grotesque.

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## Social Media

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## About Jonathan Baldock

Jonathan Baldock was born in 1980 in Kent, UK. He lives and works in London.

In 2021, Baldock had solo exhibitions at La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain and at Accelerator, Stockholm, Sweden. Stephen Friedman Gallery presented sculptural and textile works by the artist as part of the group exhibition 'Threadbare' in April 2021. Baldock's work was included in the inaugural Towner International biennial at Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, UK in October 2020.

Baldock's first solo exhibition with Stephen Friedman Gallery opened in September 2019 and presented a series of ceramic masks. This show coincided with the presentation of a large-scale, interactive sculpture by Baldock at Fitzrovia Chapel, London during Frieze week. In the spring of 2019, Baldock's solo exhibition 'Facecrime' opened at Camden Arts Centre, London following a Freelands Lomax Ceramics Fellowship. The exhibition travelled to Tramway, Glasgow in August 2019 and Bluecoat, Liverpool in March 2020.

Other notable solo and two-person exhibitions include 'Me, Myself and I', Kunsthall Stavanger, Norway (2020); 'LOVE LIFE: Act 3', De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill, UK (2017); 'LOVE LIFE: Act 2', Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool, UK (2017); 'There's No Place Like Home', Southwark Park Galleries, London, UK (2017); 'LOVE LIFE: Act 1', PEER, London, UK (2016); 'The Soft Machine', Chapter Gallery, Cardiff, Wales, UK (2016) and 'A strange cross between a butchers shop and a nightclub', Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, UK (2013). Baldock's work recently entered the Arts Council Collection, UK.

## About Stephen Friedman Gallery

Stephen Friedman Gallery represents exceptional artists from around the world. Since its inauguration in 1995, the gallery has been based in London on Old Burlington Street, Mayfair. The gallery has three spaces in which it hosts solo and group exhibitions throughout the year. Additional works can be viewed by appointment in private rooms and office spaces. There is also a facility to exhibit outdoor sculpture in a landscaped private garden.