



### ***“Girls I Love”***

*Curated by Marina Press and Amy van Doran  
1 October – 5 November 2017  
Reception: Saturday, 8 October, 7-10pm*

*The Modern Love Club* is pleased to present *The Love Museum!* The Love Museum is an experimental art gallery experience curated by the extraordinary matchmaker Amy Van Doran and museologist Marina Press. *The Love Museum's* inaugural exhibition, entitled *Girls I Love*, includes works by Kirsten Bode, Jenna Gribbon, Loretta Mae Hirsch, Sarah Moran, Carly Silverman and Sera Sloane. Each collage, drawing, painting and polaroid underlines the necessity of strong relationships between women and society.

The storefront, is the first for the decade long business, and has been decorated by the painter and photographer Kirsten Bode. Bode's temporary installation of a painted figure of a woman casually seated in the window opens the exhibition. Also included are four Polaroids by Bode of a model posing in French Rococo attire in a field. Each portrait explores the models sensuality, woman's relationship with nature and the self. The anachronistic garment references the development of these attributes over the past five centuries.

Gribbon's portrait of her friend *LaTonya* is small but powerful. A coy smile rests on the sitter's face as her background is distorted. Gribbon's broad but controlled brushstrokes are informed by her meticulous eye. It without a doubt that the sitter and the painter are well acquainted, friends, as Gribbon paints *LaTonya's* strong and beautiful personality into her gaze. This and *Julia* are two paintings from Gribbon's *Conversation Series*. A third larger portrait of Amy Van Doran entitled *Amy in Conversation* will be on view as well. This monumental, nearly life-size, depiction of Van Doran highlights her identifying characteristics; the round glasses she loosely dangles as she supports her head while reclining on the floor at Gribbon's artistic retreat the Oracle club; and her bright orange hair cut in a sharp bob; and her mini mod dress with a peter pan collar.

Hirsch's drawings, *Many Happy Endings* and *Kissing with the New Legs*, belong to a series by the artist that depicts women with more than one set of legs. In *Many Happy Endings* a topless young lady reclines on a chaise while flinging her legs on up and down. She wears a garter belt and white stockings and take a swig out of a bottle of wine. In *Kissing with the New Legs* a similarly clad woman with two sets of legs embraces a man wearing a suit and deeply kisses him. Both drawings are devoid of backgrounds.

Moran's *Something to Talk About* shows a group of friends socializing at a picnic style table in an outdoor bar. Moran uses an unexpectedly bright palette for the figures, tables, and even the lone dog begging for attention. A mere wooden fence separates this preoccupied retinue from a moonlit graveyard in the background. Referencing the late 19<sup>th</sup> century composition of Renoir's *Le Déjeuner des canotiers* Moran uses a new visual lexicon to build on the dialogue Renoir establishes. Technology like cell phones and electric lighting date Moran's painting to the present day.

Silverman's cityscape paintings feature elegant women charging across sidewalks clad in luxury designer shoes, garments, and toting their infamous purses. Silverman employs a light pastel palette to illustrate these often murky streets. In *Céline* a woman walks briskly down a sidewalk, her pale pink skirt swishing with her movement, elegant ankle strap heels compliment her Céline purse. Her hair is pulled back in a loose bun and her oversized sunglasses hide her gaze. She illuminates the dark gray cement sidewalk and her surroundings in an effervescent cloud of femininity as she struts.

Also on view are collages by artist and stylist Sera Sloane. Sloane appropriates colloquialisms by pasting them in a vinyl letters over depictions of women in both ads and editorials. Not necessarily from fashion magazines the images she chooses are have a vintage appeal. For example, in *I'm Out* a model races down a desert highway nude on a motorcycle. Her carefully styled hair barely flows in the wind and Sloane's words "*I'm Out*" are carefully placed on the model's thigh symbolizing freedom in more ways than one.

Sera Sloane and Kirsten Bode are self-taught artists. Bode lives and works in New York. Sloane lives and works in New York and Los Angeles. Moran holds an MFA the Massachusetts College of Art & Design. She recently at the Wassaic Art Project and a Can Serrat Fellowship in Spain. Gribbon lives and works in New York and is currently enrolled in the MFA program at Hunter College (CUNY). Hirsch lives and works in Cologne, Germany and holds an MFA from The New York Academy of Art. She recently held a residency at the Arteles Creative Center in Finland. Silverman lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

For more information please contact Marina Press at [marina@modernloveclub.com](mailto:marina@modernloveclub.com) or visit us at [www.thelovemuseum.com](http://www.thelovemuseum.com). We would love to hear from you!