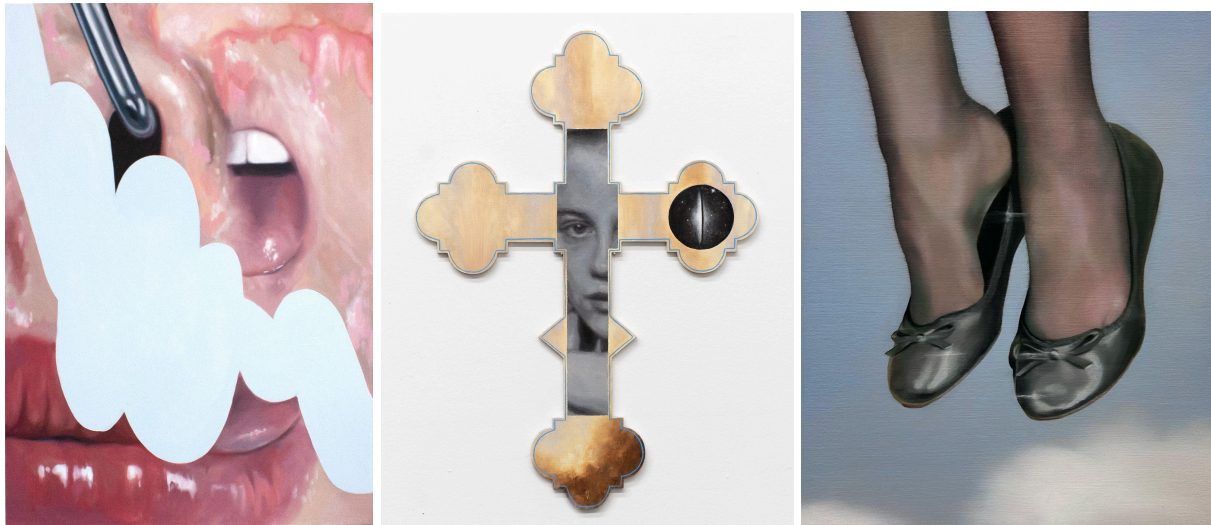


Thief of Joy

June 4 - 27

Opening Reception: June 4th, 6 - 8 PM at 279 Broome St



Lucy Luckovich, *para para para*, 2026, Oil on canvas, 60 x 42 inches

Andy Marlowe, *Sheet of Fire*, 2026, Oil and reflective fabric on MDF, 18.5 x 13 in

Nicolina Morra, *Arrobamiento*, 2026, Oil on canvas, 20 x 12 inches

New York, New York – Harsh Collective is pleased to present *Thief of Joy*, a trio exhibition featuring Lucy Luckovich, Andy Marlowe, and Nicolina Morra. The presentation ties together works by emerging artists from a generation whose experience is inextricable from the rise of social media. Employing archival and digital imagery, the three Gen-Z artists explore the need to develop and protect personal identity under the scrutiny of constant comparison and the polarity of an unprecedentedly surveilled aestheticized existence.

Together, the artists explore the ramifications of limitless access and the saturation of imagery in the Information Age. Luckovich's oil paintings juxtapose photorealistically rendered pearls and chains against blurred reference images, suggesting the sexualization of innocence. Marlowe's compositions, featuring carefully collected imagery spanning centuries, explore dichotomies of ambivalence and conviction. Morra's depictions of precise yet ethereal moments occupy ambiguous realms of agony and ecstasy. Ultimately, the artists construct a cautionary tale about how the obsessive pursuit of pleasure and beauty can precipitate their own destruction.

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Gallery founder Etta Harshaw reflects that the exhibition's title, referencing the saying "comparison is the thief of joy," meditates not on jealousy, but on the inherent self-consciousness that plagues a generation whose experience has taught them that visibility equates to value. "When a relentless barrage of imagery amalgamates into a Platonian ideal of modern life, how one appears and which images one reveres become essential to understanding oneself and others. The insatiable consumption of media robs us not only of joy, but also of peace."

About the Artists

Lucy Luckovich

Lucy Luckovich (b. 2001, Atlanta, GA) is an artist working primarily in oil painting, making work exploring desire, power, and control within a libidinal economy. She earned a BFA in Painting from Georgia State University and is currently completing her MFA at the Rhode Island School of Design. She has had solo exhibitions at Cat Eye Creative in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Marietta Cobb Museum of Art in Marietta, Georgia. Her work has been included in group exhibitions in Atlanta, Los Angeles, and New York City.

Andy Marlowe

Andy Marlowe (b. 2000) is an artist and writer from the Forgotten Coast of Florida. They look for moments with potential for collision: the fault lines between the rigid and organic, the concrete and the imagined, the contemporary and the ornate, the sterile and the emotive. They are infatuated with recreating manufactured objects and mass-produced images by hand. They are based in New York City.

Nicolina Morra

Nicolina Morra's (b. 2003, Huntington, New York) oil paintings investigate longing as a driving force in the human experience. Disillusionment with current conditions, coupled with the desire for an unattainable ideal, can manifest in a search for meaning through secular forms of worship, where power and hope is ascribed to certain figures, rituals, and objects. Morra's work examines how these forces of longing and devotion reflect the search for transcendence in the everyday.

Central to her practice is the re-contextualization of images drawn from her expanding personal archive, which she sources from films, found photographs, and online forums. The original context of these images is disrupted and imbued with new layers of meaning through selective cropping and a blurred painting technique, often paired with hyper-realistic depictions of things that play with the tension between what is within and just out of reach. This process situates her work between the archive and the altar: the archive as a repository of collective memory and

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imagery, and the altar as a space where these fragments are elevated into symbols of contemporary secular worship and the pursuit of something more. She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

About Harsh Collective

Harsh Collective is an artist-first gallery that amplifies emerging contemporary artists' voices and offers a bespoke platform where collectors, artists, and guests are welcome and encouraged to build community. Harsh Collective demystifies the art market's inner workings, allowing the artist to be at the forefront—bringing attention to their process, inspiration, and story.

<https://www.harshcollective.com/>