

Newest Target Gallery Exhibition Explores Queer Intimacy

My Queer Valentine

Saturday, January 25 – Sunday, March 8, 2020

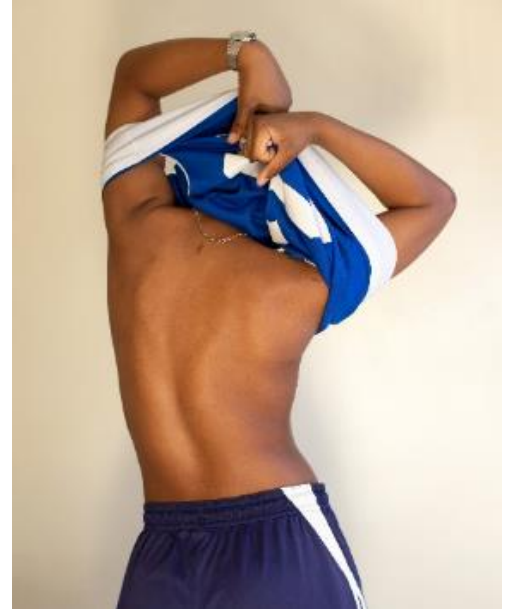
Public Reception: Friday, February 14; 7 – 10 pm, with a Juror Talk at 8 pm

January 21, 2019– Alexandria, Va. –The newest group exhibition in [Target Gallery](#), the contemporary exhibitions space of Torpedo Factory Art Center, offers a poignant look at love and relationships for LGBTQ+-identifying people in [My Queer Valentine](#). It is on view from Saturday, January 25, through Sunday, March 8, 2020, at the Art Center, located at 105 N. Union Street in Alexandria, Va.

The exhibition features 16 artists, 8 who are from Virginia or the D.C. greater metropolitan area.

Participating artists:

- [Nicholas Aiden](#), St. John's, NL, Canada
- [Veronica Barker-Barzel](#) (Studio 320), Alexandria, VA
- [Brandin Barón](#), San Francisco, CA
- [Adam David Bencomo](#), Baltimore, MD
- [Miki Beyer](#), Herndon, VA
- [Louis Chavez](#), Rochester, NY
- Mandy Chesney, Baltimore, MD
- [Evin Dubois](#), Paducah, KY



Aurele Gould (she/her), *Alex*, 2017. Photograph.

- [Aurele Gould](#), Richmond, VA
- [Cat Gunn](#), Baltimore, MD
- [Linda Hesh](#), Alexandria, VA
- [Rachael McArthur](#), Brooklyn, NY
- [Annika Papke](#), Alexandria, VA
- [Lucas J. Rougeux](#), North Bethesda, MD
- [Todd Stonnell](#), Richmond, VA
- [Matt Storm](#), Washington, DC



Matt Storm (he/him), *Act of Looking II, 17, Crossing My Fingers, Getting Away with Something*, 2017. Archival Pigment Print.

Exhibition juror Andy Johnson, a DC-based independent curator and gallery director of Gallery 102 at George Washington University, has dedicated much of his curatorial career to unpacking queer intimacy.

“While *My Queer Valentine* has everything to do with the relationship to those around us, it’s also equally invested in the relationship we have with our queer realities, and the ways in which queerness shapes and informs our lived experience,” he said. “*My Queer Valentine* is as much a love letter to ourselves as it is a disclosing of longing to our community.”

Queerness or identifying as LGBTQ+ encapsulates many identities that are not necessary set within a spectrum. This diversity in perspective is represented in a various styles, mediums, and tones in this exhibition.

For instance, Aurele Gould has three works on view that explore concepts of intimacy for queer women through different narrative portraits of her girlfriend. *Alex* captures the act of undressing, creating a flirtatious dialogue between the subject and the viewer.

Matt Storm has two works from his *Act of Looking* series, which articulates and recognizes inclusive ways to see his trans body. The piece *Act of Looking II, 17, Crossing My Fingers, Getting Away with Something* is a playful love letter to the artist’s sexuality as a transmasculine person.

Artist Miki Beyer's mixed-media work *You're Already There. You Already Have Me.* is also a love-letter, but this time between the artist and their partner. They use dialogue from past conversations between the two of them that addresses the panic of identity-erasure as a non-binary person while in cisgender/heterosexual-presenting relationship. It also speaks to the love for each other that promises for a better tomorrow.

My Queer Valentine is on view Saturday, January 25, through Sunday, March 8, 2020.

There will be [special Valentine's themed reception on Friday, February 14, 7 – 10 pm, with juror talk at 8 pm.](#)

The evening features interactive performance art, a photo op at our kissing booth, and DIY art-making activities. Learn more about and support local LGBTQ+ organizations, too.

Target Gallery is open daily from 10 – 6 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays. It is located in Studio 2 at Torpedo Factory Art Center.

About the Juror

[Andy Johnson](#) is a DC-based art historian, curator, and arts writer. He is director of Gallery 102 at the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design, contributing editor at *DIRT*, and serves as assistant curator and artist liaison for The Agora Culture's Art on the Vine. He was the 2018 Apprentice Curator for the DC Arts Center and a 2019 Visiting Arts Writer and Critic for The Chart. He has curated and juried exhibitions with Gallery 102, DC Arts Center, Dupont Underground, the Smithsonian Institution, among others. He has spoken at Rutgers University, UC Santa Barbara, University of Georgia, Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, GW Museum, Washington Project for the Arts, and others. His writings have appeared in *DIRT*, *The Chart*, *Common Field's Field Perspectives*, *The Rib*, *Pelican Bomb*, *BmoreArt* and more. He holds a master's in art history from The George Washington University.

About Target Gallery

Target Gallery is the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The gallery promotes high standards of art by continuously exploring new ideas through a variety of visual media in a rotating schedule of national and international exhibitions. The gallery is open daily from 10 – 6 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays. More information is available via torpedofactory.org/target.

About Torpedo Factory Art Center

Founded in 1974 in an old munitions plant, Torpedo Factory Art Center is home to the nation's largest number of publicly accessible working artist studios under one roof. The City of Alexandria manages Torpedo Factory Art Center through the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities as part of the [Office of the Arts'](#) family of programs and facilities. Just south of Washington, D.C., the Torpedo Factory Art Center overlooks the Potomac River in the Old Town section of Alexandria, Va. Each year, more than a half million national and international visitors meet and interact with more than 160 resident artists in 82 studios and seven galleries. For more information, visit torpedofactory.org or follow the Art Center on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#) via @torpedofactory.



Miki Beyer (they/them), *You're Already There. You Already Have Me.*, 2019. Mixed Media on photo paper.

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High Resolution Images Available

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