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Come to A Night in the Chapel and The Mall with Jackie Blue

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Come to *A Night in the Chapel* and *The Mall* with Jackie Blue

Senior Project Submitted to
The Division of the Arts of Bard College

by
Jackie Weddell

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

May 2023

Acknowledgements

To my models: Thank you for trusting me and my abilities to create. Thank you for listening to me and reassuring me of my power. Your encouragement and devotion is what made this project able to happen.

To my parents: Thank you for your continual and unconditional support of my personhood as a creator. You both have encouraged my performative spirit and my favorite words that you have spoken to me are, 'we aren't surprised by any of this,' after my show. This was so affirming for me.

To my teachers: Thank you for treating me as an equal and not teaching me things through condescension but through collaboration.

To myself: Thank you for never giving up on me and for always seeing the best in me. Thank you for always looking at me with love and admiration. You are so special to me and I would not change the life that we have together for anything. I am so grateful and lucky to have you.

To Gaga: I know you will see this one day and find it hilarious.

To Calabria: Thank you for showing me myself.

Artist Statement

My collection of garments and accessories being sold at *The Mall* was conceived in Southern Italy.

I visited the home of my ancestors in August of 2022 for the first time. Relatively early in my presenting feminine, I proved to be a spectacle for the places I visited and their inhabitants. Days filled with gawking, pointing, and yelling; the attention was not new to me, just in this case I couldn't understand what my viewers were saying. Only at night, after the locals got drunk and the lights were dimmed did I sort of blend in with the other big-nosed wiry women roaming the streets of Calabria with me. It was an odd position to be in, for sure, but it allowed me to exist singularly and instinctually for a while. Traveling with my mom and sister, who did not receive these stares, I frequently went out on my own to explore. I found that I kept gravitating toward the same two places in these moments of discomfort. The places I found myself instinctively entering were 1. Churches and 2. Shopping malls.

Thinking retrospectively about these intuitive ventures, I realized that I wasn't ever being noticed in these settings. In the churches, Catholic frequenters were too focused on praying to notice me walking by. And in the malls, I found that because there were so many people, all enthralled by the mall's visuals of consumption, I was not at the top of their lists to stare at either. Although I wasn't being noticed by the locals in these places, I still couldn't shake this feeling that I was being watched over. This surveillance was transformed only when I decided to stare back at its source.

Physically, I learned that this stare was coming from the statues of Maria in the churches, and from the faces of mannequins in the malls. Metaphysically, I learned that this gaze was actually my own.

When I stared back at one of these forms, I first only felt the impermeable nature of its ceramic or plastic make up. After about thirty seconds, my stare's source became abstracted. Maria and the mannequin transitioned out of objectiveness and into reflectiveness. My visual consciousness became superimposed onto my subjects and I ultimately switched places with them. I became them. These humanoid forms acted as vessels for me to see myself through and in these moments, surrounded by binary Italy and its forces of isolation, I fell in love with what I saw.

God's image of a young Gaga basking in her potential.
I couldn't be luckier.

A Night in the Chapel acts as a culminating moment for all of these metaphysical happenings of self and God to be created into a collection of physical objects for the masses to see and absorb.

The Mall harps on the fact that I was never truly exposed to fine art as a kid but rather found inspiration for creativity when I frequented my local shopping mall with my mom weekly.

The two in tandem tell a story of self.

Documentation of *A Night in the Chapel*

















Images from *The Mall* are not included because this document was turned in during the middle of its installation. To describe the exhibition sale, I have stretched many of the garments in space using clear thread to offer a 2D presentation. Objects that were used as accessories are presented on pedestals. Every object is priced as if it were an art collecting sale rather than a commercial mall space. This is meant to comment on the crossroad of fashion and art that I find myself at frequently. When it comes to the value of my creations, I find that it is always lowered after I have assigned a function to the creation and if it is meant to serve no purpose other than it being art, the price goes up.

A Night In the Chapel

April, 15 2023 at 7:30 pm

Chapel of the Holy Innocents

Bard College



Jamie Blue
Final Runway Showcase
created by:

TIPS APPRECIATED ♡

The Mall

May 6th-20th, 2023

Bard College UBS
45 O'Callaghan Ln.
Red Hook, NY 12571

Selling Items:
from 3pm to 6pm on the 6th



Final Exhibition Sale
Created By:

Jessie Blue























