

The back room, or as we like to call it “backstage” for this show, is a mini-retrospective of two projects I did about 20 years ago. I came to NYC in 1999 and was super fascinated with the art scene and all the great creative women I met. Feeling so connected and a part of this community made me want to document that unity.

The *Naked City* project is a recreation of the controversial 1968 Jimi Hendrix album cover “Electric Ladyland”. Growing up in the 60’s and seeing this album cover in my parents record collection and the fact that the original photograph was censored in the US, inspired me to replace the groupie models with dynamic contemporary women of New York whom I scouted and photographed. A group photo shoot was executed by photographer Jason Schmid and I, followed by work in my studio producing a large velvet painting, drawings and studies. Paintings on velvet were popular kitsch style in the 1960’s, but this painting’s large scale of 18’ x 9’ gives it a different context with a royal air. The show took place in 2004 at Deitch Projects in NYC.

The, *I Want To Ride My Bicycle* project is a reinterpretation of the notorious poster included with the rock band Queen’s 1978 album, “Jazz”. My older sister had this poster hanging on her wall and I had always wondered who these women might be. In 2006, when I began the project with the idea of it being a performance, nudity in the US was still forbidden in public. This led me to create a nude suit, worn by 40 women friends, made

from flesh-colored sheer stretch hosiery. The photograph was shot by Matthew Placek, and the performance took place as part of the Deitch Projects sponsored “Art Parade” in 2006. Both were filmed and edited together by Ron Egozi and can be viewed on YouTube and Vimeo.