



ZABLUDOWICZ  
COLLECTION  
20 YEARS

CONTRIBUTIONS

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FOREWORD

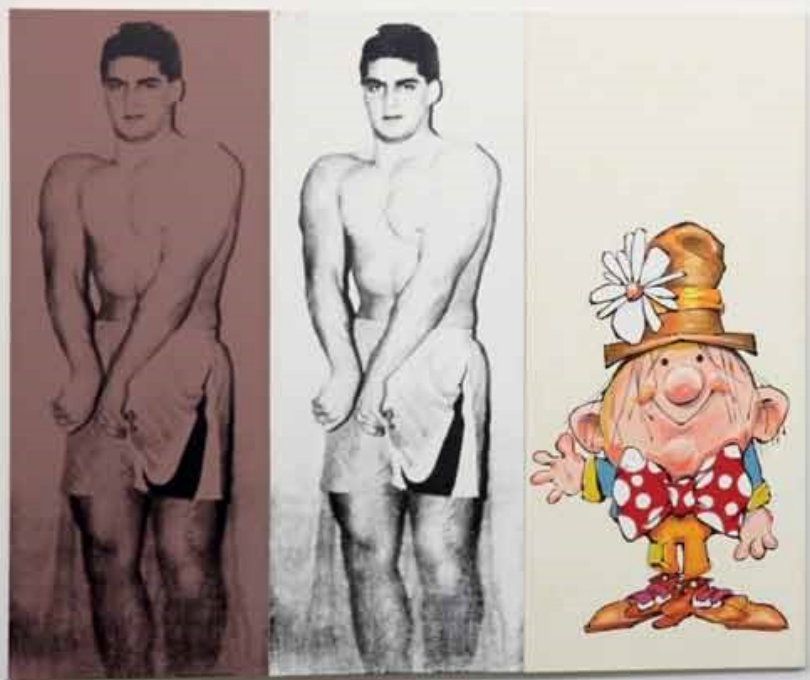
Elizabeth Neilson

INTRODUCTION

Paul Luckraft and  
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Wolfgang Tillmans  
Keith Tyson  
Julia Wachtel  
Gillian Wearing  
Rachel Whiteread  
Christopher Wool



**Julia Wachtel on *Untitled (Bodybuilder)*, 1989**

*Untitled (Bodybuilder)* is from my 'celebrity' series. At that time most of the images were taken from *People* magazine, which was entirely black and white then. At the time I didn't have a computer let alone Photoshop, so using black and white source images for monoprint silkscreens made sense. The bodybuilder was a high-school kid who was taking steroids and got into some type of criminal trouble which was blamed on the effects of the drugs. I don't remember the details any more. I felt he was the embodiment of a disenfranchised, alienated, suburban teenager with limited choices. That is how I read it anyway. And the cartoon is a presenter, presenting not only his co-star but himself as well. The cartoons are a stand-in for an 'everyman'. A common denominator person – a citizen, a viewer, an artist.

There are many other paintings I made with similar cartoon characters. The presenter is taken from a greetings

card. It is a style of illustration that I like, where the figures are rendered painterly and volumetric as opposed to flat and graphic. I have boxes of these cards here in the studio. You can't find them in stores any more although there are some for sale online on eBay. I have some favourite cartoons that get recycled and appear in multiple paintings. I have called them my ensemble cast, although I try not to get formulaic in recasting them. The humour part and the potential unwilling identification with the cartoons creates an emotional honesty, and a way into an unguarded experience. It's like when you laugh at a joke and you lose control of yourself for a minute and you're not protecting your idealised self. You are just reacting to something. But after that first unguarded reaction or laugh you are left with the work of reconciling what is an unsettling, irrational situation.

*Excerpt from studio interview recorded 7 March 2015*

