

Sven Loven's 'Steven' at Christian Andersen, Copenhagen

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | JANUARY 20, 2017



Sven Loven, "I wrote your name on a bullet" (2017), Acrylic on canvas, 214 x 168 cm (66 x 84 inches)
(Courtesy: Sven Loven and Christian Andersen; Photo: Malle Madsen)

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Christian Andersen, Copenhagen is hosting the works of Swedish artist Sven Loven (born 1979) in the exhibition titled 'Steven' on view from January 20 through March 11, 2017.

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Christian Andersen

The exhibited works are inspired by the ordeals of the artist's personal love life. Sven Loven was especially interested in the arcana of current mass media, as the constant mutation of dueling aesthetics in cyberspace provides novel manifestations of human expression. Many of the images derive from lowly sources, while some take inspiration from historic works of art and antiquated traditions. For instance, the painting "Ideal Lover" employs the motif of a primitive Smartphone coupled with an acidic and smoldering rendering of a "Kappa," a monster from Japanese folklore. The result is a mythological take on the generic image of the dating-site selfie, the combination of archaic lore with contemporary social technology resulting in a compelling juxtaposition of form and content. The title of the show, 'Steven,' is meant to refer to an alternate persona of the artist, as the name Sven is often changed to Steve by Americans unfamiliar with foreign names. Thus, he envisioned the show's content to be extrapolations on love and desire from the perspective of a colloquial version of himself.

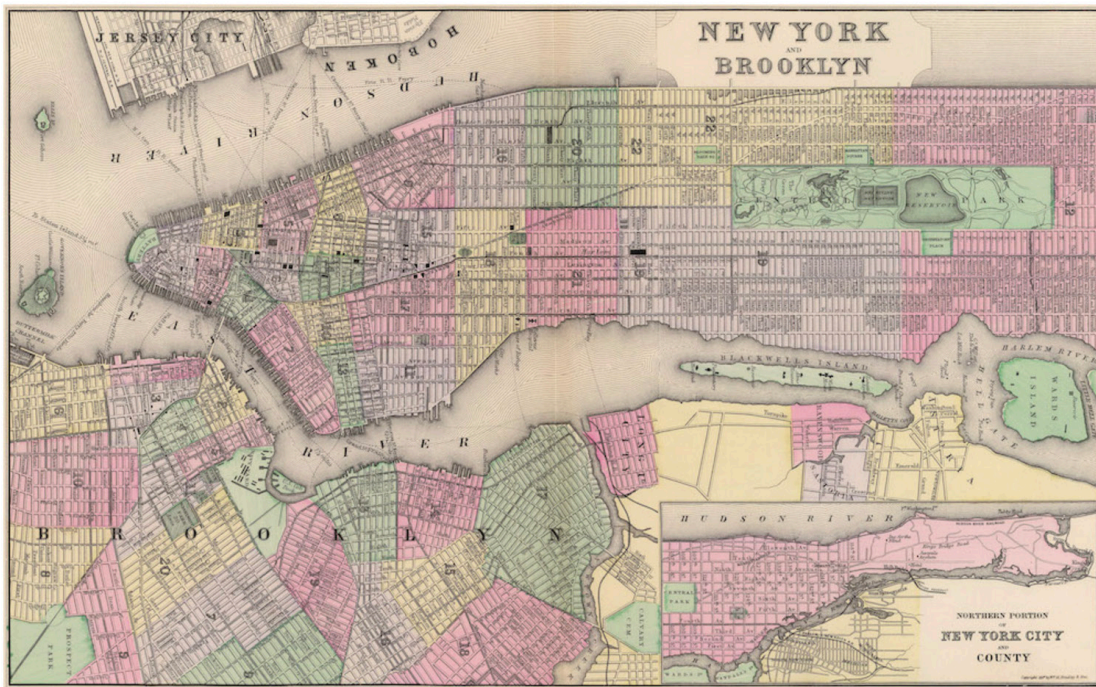
The exhibition will be on view at Christian Andersen, Bispevej 29, 2400 Copenhagen NV



The Road Less Traveled: A Few Reviews From Slightly Out-of-the-Way Galleries

BY *Andrew Russett* POSTED 12/11/15 3:35 PM

Matthew Langan-Peck at Svetlana, Sven Loven at Jeffrey Stark, 'The Home Show,' 'NO DICE (1)' at Kimberly-Klark, U.S. Blues



A map of Manhattan and Brooklyn from 1890.

COURTESY MEDIUM RARE

This is not, by any means, a universal law, but a pretty good rule of thumb: the more outlandish or out-of-the-way the location of a new gallery or project space is, the better the chance is that the art there is going to be worth the trip. Out on the periphery, overheads are low, so experimentation can flourish, and proprietors can't rely on foot traffic for attention, so they need to make their shows count. Sadly, though, because these spaces are often helmed by people who juggle more than one job, their hours are typically limited, and they often have short life spans (even of just one show). Some of the best recent ones are now on hiatus right now, but others just keep coming. Below, a quick tour through a few of the more promising developments in his category of late.



Installation view of 'PussyCatShrimp,' an exhibition of one painting from a triptych of the same name by Sven Loven at Jeffrey Stark.
ARTNEWS

JEFFREY STARK

Over in the basement of Chinatown's action-packed East Broadway Mall at 88 East Broadway, the **Jeffrey Stark** project space opened up in October. Entering the gallery requires an appointment, but the lights are on and the gate is up from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. every single day, and the room is so tiny that you can get a reasonably good sense of the show through the floor-to-ceiling glass windows. The previous exhibition, "PussyCatShrimp," which closed last Friday, was a single impressive, smoky painting, by the New York-based Swede **Sven Loven**, of a rather fearsome-looking mantis shrimp in hazy purples and gut reds—a dread-inducing work by any measure. Next up, opening this Sunday, December 13, is a show by **Rose Salane** of "new sculptures and articles," according to a gallery note.

"Art of the City" is a weekly column by ARTnews co-executive editor Andrew Russeth.

Update, December 12: An earlier version of this post misstated Asad Raza's work. He has produced shows for Tino Sehgal, but he is not employed by him.