

Fergus McCaffrey, New York

Jack Early
February 18–April 9, 2016

Fergus McCaffrey, New York is proud to present a new body of paintings and sculptures by Jack Early in his largest solo exhibition to date, on view from February 18 to April 9, 2016. An opening reception for the artist will take place on February 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The gallery will also be hosting a press preview; please contact Alexandra von Stumberg McCaffrey (contact information below) for further details.



Jack Early was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1962, and his aesthetic roots in the South represent a distinct and contrasting perspective within the generation of artists who emerged in the early 1990s and addressed race and gender politics, gay rights, and AIDS, while critiquing the authority of cultural institutions.

Some of Early's ideas on these matters were touched upon early in his career with his then partner, Rob Pruitt, in their short-lived Pruitt-Early collaboration. Their art was upbeat, inclusive, tongue in cheek, and coyly provocative; it stood in contrast to others of that generation who adopted different means to address the issues of their time. Early's current work, while maintaining some of the spirit of that period, is focused more directly on his own storytelling, revealing a candid

openness and evident joy and pathos in the work. Early has an eye for icons, both old and new.

In keeping with the artist's fascination with the popular culture of his childhood and adolescence, Early's fourth show with Fergus McCaffrey will feature lusciously rendered, large-scale, photo-realist paintings of Popsicles, figurative works, and breakfast cereal, alongside soft, freestanding sculptures of family members and household objects; all of them are painted and printed onto a silkscreened replica of his boyhood wallpaper of toy soldiers, reworked to be holding hands and in an array of colors. These works will be musically accompanied by a Victrola playing Early's own performance of his autobiographical "Jack Early's Life Story in Just Under 20 Minutes."



Jack Early's recent appearances have included *Pop Life: Art in a Material World*, Tate Modern, London, 2009–10; *Mapping the Studio: Artists from the François Pinault Collection*, Palazzo Grassi, Venice, 2009–11; *Jack Early: WWJD*, Southfirst, Brooklyn, 2012; *Jack Early: Bed Peace*, McCaffrey Fine Art, New York, 2012; Fergus McCaffrey's presentation at Art Basel Miami Beach, 2014; and *Jack Early's Life Story in Just Under 20 Minutes*, Printed Matter, Inc., 2015. He lives and works in Brooklyn.

About Fergus McCaffrey

Founded in 2006, Fergus McCaffrey is internationally recognized for its groundbreaking role in promoting the work of postwar Japanese artists such as Sadamasa Motonaga, Natsuyuki Nakanishi, Kazuo Shiraga, and Jiro Takamatsu. The gallery also exhibits the work of emerging and seminal Western artists such as Jack Early, Marcia Hafif, Birgit Jürgenssen, Richard Nonas, and Sigmar Polke.

Images:

1. Jack Early, *Bomb Pop*, 2015. Oil on silkscreen canvas, 110 x 74 inches (279.4 x 188 cm)

© Jack Early; Courtesy of Fergus McCaffrey, New York / St. Barth

2. Jack Early, *Yellow Popsicle*, 2015. Oil on silkscreen canvas, 110 x 74 inches (279.4 x 188 cm)

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