

Kunsthaus Glarus

Press Release

June 6–August 22, 2021

Puppies Puppies (Jade Kuriki Olivo) – *I'm Jade.*

I'm a trans woman trans womxn trans femme two spirit human being. Life feels long even though it hasn't been all that long. A brain tumor surgically removed, getting divorced, losing my dad, brain tumor resurgence scare, starting hormone replacement therapy, experiencing sexual assault and rape multiple times and coming out as a woman. This exhibition is a roller coaster of the emotions feelings but also thoughts connections that happened over this span of time... only a little more than a decade. This exhibition covers the span of Puppies Puppies to Jade. It's hard to get up each morning. My heart aches but I'm happy to be a woman. I'll try my best to enjoy life even though society makes it difficult. From dust to dust I am but a speck on this planet and I wonder how to use this short life of mine. Trying not to let my trauma take over but still be kind to yourself Jade. This is the end of a decade • a new way of working coming soon.

Sincerely, Jade Kuriki Olivo

I'm Jade Kuriki Olivo. I am very proud to say that I'm a trans woman.

"I'm a woman." as Joela Rivera would say

I am also a womxn. (to tell me otherwise to think of me otherwise to treat me otherwise is transphobia)(to internalize this)(understanding what internalizing it entails)

Please respect who I am

It comes with un –

Programming

the binary mind

wherever it exists all over

but a time

Before the binary existed

in many indigenous cultures all over the world since the beginning of time

I am also a Two-Spirit person.

I go by and prefer She/Her

but They/Them is apart of my past and present it's an honor to receive this pronoun as well.

To those that knew me as *insert pre transition dead name here" you don't know me now

you know bits and pieces

glimmers

of the person

I am today

Jade

There are phases in my life as a trans woman

I shed skin

like that of a snake

I am the year of the snake

Being attracted to toxic relationships

Abuse from my father and other abuse experienced while growing up

feeling the reason to be attracted

to those that don't treat me right sometimes

Multiple rapes in life leaving me with endless trust issues

I'm so grateful now I've finally found my trans family my chosen family

I'm

Here with them now celebrating in upstate ny

fighting for abolition all the other days

but today is for healing in nature

To be together to experience joy for a change

Green the peace of the Caribbean jungle

El Yunque

Green is in many places on the planet

blue and yellow combine

it's all over the world

These three colors

mixing all over this planet and atmosphere

I've lost people because they know stages of me

sometimes I even lose myself in the transition because I let myself flow down it even if rapids at many moments I let it flow over me

It's hard I can't face the world

Many days but I try

It's terrifying to be in the world

As a trans woman

As a trans woman

I danced as a lion in a mascot costume as a teenager full of fear as a closeted trans woman but in the anonymity of the costume I could dance my heart out the movements didn't have to be restrained to appear masculine no one knew it was me

I could dance however my body wanted transitioning on a spectrum

(people find ways even under the oppression of colonialism and the harm and destruction it has enacted upon the world)

* To find a way • even in secret • to keep the culture alive • even if away from it • to dance as their indigenous ancestors did to dance as a trans woman a two spirit person • so young not yet out but feeling myself alone in a room dancing to Christina Aguilera or in a costume anonymous in front of a basketball or football crowd

* It was a form of hiding too not yet feeling free with myself to be my true self a woman a trans womxn a two spirit human being

Everything in my life changed when I said I was a woman everything changed

Dancing as a mascot in high school

moving

letting her out

moving my hips in a way that would have resulted in beating and humiliation

without the costume

as a "feminine boy" in the conservative south

My dance was feeling emotion

I relate dancing

to my indigenous ancestors through my father who's family comes from the Caribbean but who's blood stems from tribes around the world

I relate dancing

to my two spirit ancestors

My grandpa taking me to pow wows

but as a trans woman that was not yet out

the son he use to know

we will never meet as a trans woman

as a woman

its like that for many trans gnc 2s people sometimes you just get to watch your relatives

age from a screen

I relate my dancing to the Japanese dance form and movement Butoh a dance of agony of death of emotions and the ephemerality of life My grandpa We've never met now that

I've transitioned •sometimes you watch people age from a screen•

I was often scared to use my voice

So I tried as much as possible to not speak

It would reveal all too much

Adjusting my voice all my life
from
Low to "pass" at one point in my life
higher to "pass" at another point
"Passing" whatever the fuck that means
Some nights I fell asleep praying to god for a vagina
To make me acceptable to society
as a child internalizing the hate I could feel all around me

The estrogen the testosterone blockers and progesterone
it's hard to explain to someone the emotions the feelings
that come
Up the ways it helps but also how it causes depression etc
An exhaustion to an extreme I mean think about it
Changing all your hormones
Libido gone now back now gone now low now back in full
force the changes
Keep up I say to myself

HRT isn't necessary to be trans or to transition
It's only for some
people
But it changed me and it's hard to convey the
metamorphosis
Moods up and down
drastic
Body changes • vastly ranges actually
not feeling something (more apparent)
sensitivity arises
Sexual orientation from
"Gay man" (I never fit in there)
to pansexual Woman
A divorce during that process from a man who who I felt
A lot of love for but
now

this being the same for
so many/ some
trans gnc 2s people I know
relationships with
cis family
friends
Lovers
spouses
fade
people don't understand the trials and tribulations
Nor do they want to they want to stay oblivious to the
struggles of BIPOC people especially BIPOC Trans womxn

Black Trans Lives more than matter

End Asian Hate

My mother is Japanese American and you'll see work
relating to the atrocities of Japanese American internment
camps in the United States
My mother came to the US when she was 6 months old
With my grandma
Toyoko

You'll see gun triggers scattered about from used guns
taken off the market and melted down besides the trigger

My mom was held at gun point by three white men when I
was a child and she broke her glasses saying I can't identify
you
so they wouldn't take her with her car and belongings
I've hated guns since
Thinking she could have died that night

I was abused by my father but also see that he was abused
by his father
I'm sorry for the trauma they both experience
I am still effected by trauma
from
Their inherited abusive behavior
Apart of me can't blame them
To have a better life they joined the military
The military is used as a tool
Waved over many BIPOC lives as a way to find security but
also
To use them as living shields for the country that denies
them
Any rights
but to profit off diasporas as means to build the military
for this country

This show spans over ten years from before I transitioned
to Jade to me now a trans woman trying to change things

We have but one life to live when brushing close with death
it changes your perception

I had brain cancer and a tumor was removed after I was hit
by a car and it required a cat scan.
Surgery

The skin from
My forehead was lifted forward and the cranium removed
my brain was then exposed to the air the atmosphere and
even space in that moment when the tumor was removed
You'll notice death comes up a lot
And the brain too in this show

The brain
walking earths
walking universes
So complex

I must say

To witness the lack of empathy and sympathy from the art
world to trans people trans femmes gnc people esp BIPOC
trans gnc 2S + people is fucked up to say the least

Do better
Please help us don't make us be the only ones supporting
each other
help us don't say you're going to help us
help us don't use us
give us opportunities esp Black Trans Woman
Qween Jean and Joela Rivera have taught me this
to stand up to speak up

To the art bubble
If you like my art support me so I can support my chosen
sisters and siblings

More importantly
support my sisters and siblings
post their mutual aid on Instagram

Trans people are hurting out here
Sex work helped me get through part of the pandemic

Support us uplift us give us opportunities
Instead of tokenizing
help us survive
find healthcare
housing
Help trans people esp Trans BIPOC people survive
I have worked so hard for
This show
I honestly can't believe I'm turning 32 as it opens

Even if I'm
Not present
I can't believe I'm still alive to even see it
My spirit maybe one day soon
a ghost
who knows but fate
I got trans woman tattooed on my hand in case anything
happens to me and they find me they will know I'm a
woman even if they continue to misgender me until the skin
wears to bone it will remind them of my truth

"I'm a woman" as Joella Rivera would say

Art bubble do better
Please

(Donate to a protest organization I protest with regularly if
you can [@thestonewallprotests](#) on instagram cashapp in
their bio Joella Rivera and Qween Jean who organize it every
Thursday at Stonewall
They are my teachers mentors sisters elders icons so
Much love and honor to them)

Trans GNC 2S community
brilliant creatives
artists
human beings
you should follow and support on Instagram and however
you can
This list is in no particular order
Please support these incredible humans

Lexii Foxx
Instagram [@lexiifoxx69](#)
Instagram [@stopkillingusglobalcampaign](#)
her go fund me link is
<https://gofund.me/02044d3e>
Cashapp [\\$LexiiFoxx](#)
Venmo [Stop-KillingUs](#)

Bri Williams
Instagram [@bruiizr](#)
[@bria-williams-5](#)

Joella Rivera
Instagram [@joelriveraaa](#)
Cashapp [\\$stonewallprotests](#)

Qween Jean
Instagram [@Qween_jean](#)
Venmo [@miss_jean](#)

Laboujienata Diallo
Instagram [@ko_min_laboujienata](#)
Cashapp [\\$Laboujienata](#)
Go fund me link <https://gofund.me/86f36c81>

Aletheia Ramos
Instagram [@veritasrael](#)
Cashapp [\\$veritasrael](#)

Princess Alani !
Instagram [@alaninyc](#)
Venmo [Alanipassion](#)
Cashapp [\\$nycpaid](#)

China Black
Instagram [@china.bqueen](#)

Elliot Reed
Instagram [@elliott_reed_laboratories](#)

Cielo Oscuro
Instagram [@bbysatan666](#)
Venmo [@tucielooscuro](#)
Go fund me link <https://gofund.me/d7983dd5>

Tahtianna Carrol
Instagram [@tahtianna_infinity_](#)
Cashapp [\\$TahtiannaFermin](#)
Venmo [@TahtiannaFermin](#)

Ren Pan
Instagram [@sheseemsnice](#)
Venmo [@ren_pan](#)

Davia Spain
Instagram [@DaviaSpain](#)
Venmo [@daviaspain](#)

Dréya St. Clair
Instagram [@Dreyastclair](#)
[#TransisWorthy](#)

SoiL Thornton
Instagram [@_s_o_i_L](#)

Iman Le Caire
Instagram [@ImanLeCaire](#)
Venmo [Iman-LeCaire](#)
Cashapp [\\$ImanLeCaireNYC](#)

Thesan Pollyanna
Instagram [@thesan.p](#)
Venmo [@Thesan-polly](#)
Cashapp [\\$thesanmusic](#)

Shuriya Davis
Instagram [@shuriyadavis](#)

Ava Grey
[@avagrey.xo](#)

Tourmaline
Instagram [@tourmaliine](#)

Precious Okoyomon
Instagram [@devilintraining_](#)

Marquise Vilsón Balenciaga
Instagram [@MarquiseVilson](#)

Ali Mounkary
Instagram [@priinceali](#)

Jerome AB
Instagram [@jerome__ab](#)
Venmo [@Jerome_AB](#)

Jennicet Gutiérrez
Instagram [@jennicetguti](#)

Richie Shazam
Instagram [@richieshazam](#)

Iiia Xochipilli
Instagram [@theearthstwinsister](#)
Venmo [@iiaa](#)
Cashapp [\\$iiaa](#)
PayPal [iiaax](#)

Ms Jael
Instagram [@ms__jael](#)

Neptunite
Instagram [@dragonflyneptunite](#)
Instagram [@solunarpillars](#)

B. Hawk Snipes
Instagram [@bhawksnipes](#)
Cashapp [\\$bhawk334](#)

Jordan Shelwood
Instagram [@kamkorderz](#)
The Angelito Collective Go Fund Me
<https://gofund.me/67eblab1>

Gia Love
Instagram [@love.gia](#)

Jordiana Diana
Instagram [@earthtojordi](#)
Venmo [@earthtojordi](#)
Cashapp [\\$earthtojordi](#)
Paypal [@earthtojordi](#)

Jari Jones
Instagram [@iamjarijones](#)
Cashapp [\\$iamjarijones](#)

Bamby Salcedo
Instagram [@labamby](#)

Marie Angel Venarsian
Instagram [@msvenarsian](#)
Venmo [@msvenarsian](#)
Cashapp [\\$msvenarsian](#)

Rohan Zhou-Lee
Instagram [@diaryofafirebird](#)
Instagram [@Blasianmarch](#)

Valeria Atreides
Instagram [@adjust_rain](#)

Eric Ao
Instagram [@eric.ao.39](#)

LILITH
Instagram [@devilsdaughtaa](#)
Go Fund Me <https://gofund.me/ca2d6aa6>

Ms. Carrie Stacks
Instagram [@ms.carriestacks](#)
£\$ app [£mbcc9](#)

Elijah Alter
Instagram [@devine_deception](#)

Dese Escobar
Instagram [@tinamilli0nangel](#)

Xelestia! Moreno-Luz
Instagram [@nonbinarymami](#)
Venmo [@theageofeve](#)

Alicia Miller
Instagram [@alicia_miller_kem](#)
PayPal [@kenrica1](#)
Go Fund Me <https://gofund.me/de670c5b>

Mook Nathaniel
Instagram [@be.whoyouneeded](#)

Pierre Davis
Instagram [@pierrehommes](#)
Instagram [@nosesso](#)

Kammy-Raé
Instagram [@kamyothe Kidd](#)

Nereida Patricia
Instagram [@nereidapatricia](#)

XOÁI Pham
Instagram [@xoai.pham](#)

This list will be added to as the exhibition goes on.

This exhibition is a retrospective and brings together works of the artist created between 2011–2021. Until 2018, the conceptual works of Puppies Puppies (Jade Kuriki Olivo), were created by an anonymous artist–subject. The name Puppies Puppies revealed neither gender or origin, nor whether a group or just a single individual was behind the pseudonym. Stepping away from this veiled identity became part of a series of works beginning in 2018 that were overlaid with the actual transitioning of the artist to Jade Kuriki Olivo. Her activist practice and commitment to the rights of BIPOC transgender, gender non conforming, two spirit + minorities has become steadily more important as she continues her transition. This text by the artist was written for this exhibition, the first to provide an overview of her entire body of work.

The exhibition by Puppies Puppies (Jade Kuriki Olivo), is followed by two solo exhibitions by Bri Williams (*1993, lives and works in Los Angeles) and Elliot Reed (*1992, lives and works in New York). The exhibitions are based on an invitation by Puppies Puppies (Jade Kuriki Olivo), who received a carte blanche from the institution. The practice of Puppies Puppies (Jade Kuriki Olivo) has always been characterized by collaborations with other artists. The works of Bri Williams and Elliot Reed have never on display seen in Switzerland before.

Puppies Puppies (Jade Kuriki Olivo) recently had solo exhibitions at Galerie Francesca Pia, Zurich 2019; Remail Modern, Saskatoon 2019; Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg 2019; Balice Hertling, Paris 2019; Queer Thoughts, New York 2019; Galerie Barbara Weiss, Berlin 2018; XYZ Collective, Tokyo 2018; Overduin & Co., Los Angeles 2017; Oracle, Berlin 2017; T293, Rome 2017; BFA Boatos, São Paulo 2016. Her work was included in the 2017 Whitney Biennial, and the 9th Berlin Biennale.

There will be no press conference. For a personal appointment for a tour, please feel free to contact otto.bonnen@kunsthausglarus.ch at any time.

Events and Art Education

Opening

Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 4pm

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 12:30pm

Guided tour through the exhibition and lunch
with Otto Bonnen and Anne Gruber

Sunday, June 20, 2021, 2:30pm

Blickwechsel

Kids' afternoon with Brandy Butler, musician, actress, activist, mother and teacher

Thursday, June 24, 2021, 5pm

Collection Picks

with Sarah Burger, artist

Thursday, July 8, 2021, 6pm

Guided tour through the exhibition
with Otto Bonnen

Sunday, August 15, 2021, 3pm

Collection Picks

with Anna Schürch, lecturer and researcher in the field of art education
at Zürcher Hochschule der Künste

Sunday, August 22, 2021, from 2pm

Closing

Guided tour through the exhibition with Judith Welter
more information coming soon on our website

Im Volksgarten, 8750 Glarus
Di bis Fr 12.00–18.00 Uhr, Sa und So 11.00–17.00 Uhr
www.kunsthausglarus.ch

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