Artists Resources – Nicole Eisenman (American, b. 1965)

In 2009, Nicole Eisenman: The Way We Weren’t was on display at the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College. Read an article, “Nicole Eisenman probes human psyche with wit and dexterity,” in Times Union by John Carl D’Annibale.

Eisenman co-founded the queer/feminist curatorial initiative Ridykelous with A.L. Steiner. The two organized a 2014 exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Readykeulous by Ridykeulous: This is What Liberation Feels Like™. Read a conversation between the two artists in Hyperallergic.

Eisenman won a MacArthur Fellowship in 2015. Read a profile of the artist in Out Magazine and an interview artist David Humphrey from that same year.

Masterpieces & Curiosities: Nicole Eisenman’s Seder was installed at the Jewish Museum in 2015. Read an article in Art in America about the exhibition.


In 2016, Nicole Eisenman: Al-ugh-ories was on display at the New Museum, the artist’s first New York museum survey. Read an article in Widewalls by Amy Lin, one in the New Yorker by Peter Schieldahl, and a review in the New York Times by Roberta Smith.

Eisenman won the Suzanne Deal Booth/FLAG Art Foundation Prize in 2020. The artist then had an exhibition with fellow artist Keith Boadwee at the FLAG Foundation and a solo exhibition at The Contemporary Austin, Nicole Eisenman: Sturm und Drang.

The Astrup Fearnley Musset in Oslo, Norway opened Nicole Eisenman: Giant Without a Body in 2021, the artist’s largest solo exhibition in Europe to that date.

Read a 2021 story in the New Yorker about the paintings Eisenman created during the pandemic, which author Ian Parker calls “the most ambitious works of her career – paintings filled with angst, jokes, and romance.”

Nicole Eisenman: Prince was an online exhibition held at the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Museum of Contemporary Art.

In 2022, the jointly organized, traveling exhibition Nicole Eisenman and the Moderns. Heads, Kisses, Battles was on display at the Kunsthalle Bielefeld, the Fondation Vincent van Gogh, the Aargauer Kunsthaus, and the Kunstmuseum den Haag. The exhibition included 70 artworks from Eisenman’s oeuvre, juxtaposed with 70 works on loan from the participating museums.
Nicole Eisenman (French-American, b. 1965)

**Love or Generosity Maquette**, 2019-2021
Bronze and stainless steel, ed. 1/3 + 2 AP

Private Collection; L2022:10.2

Nicole Eisenman was born in France, where their father was stationed as an army psychologist, and grew up in Scarsdale, New York. Though they are known for paintings that reflect on sexuality, humor, and the human condition, Eisenman has recently turned to creating whimsical sculptures. **Love or Generosity Maquette** is a model for the 5-meter-tall public sculpture recently installed outside the New Amsterdam Courthouse in the Netherlands. The gender-fluid figure sports a rounded nose and unkept hair, wearing Adidas tracksuit pants and boots. Holding an owl, arrow, and acorn in their outstretched hand – symbols of wisdom, true aim, and potential growth, respectively – the figure challenges the classical ideal of a white, athletic, figurative sculpture. Instead, Eisenman sees their bronze figures as the “scruffy, bohemian great-great-grandchildren of [Greco-Roman] gods,” who are content with an imperfect, fluid, utopic way of life.

*On view November 23, 2022 – February 26, 2023*

**Extra Resources:**
Emma Sullivan, “[Nicole Eisenman’s Love or Generosity” in Humour in the Arts, 7 May 2021]