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Leslie Friedman & Bernardo Margulis: *Gay, Jewish, or Both*
1.3.14 – 1.31.14

Philadelphia, PA... NAPOLEON will debut a collaborative installation called ***Gay, Jewish, or Both*** by artist Leslie Friedman and designer Bernardo Margulis for the month of January with an opening from 6 – 10PM on First Friday, January 3rd, 2014. In addition to the opening, there will be a closing reception Thursday, January 30th from 6 – 8PM. The gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from 2 – 6PM and by appointment.

In ***Gay, Jewish, or Both***, designer Bernardo Margulis and artist Leslie Friedman team up to create a completely new installation. Audiences are invited to open the doors of NAPOLEON, revealing an ambiguous dining room scene. In the room, the viewer will find a table prepared for brunch; it is as if a young man has just stepped into the bathroom twenty minutes before his guests arrive. The table is exquisitely set for 6 friends to celebrate the New Year with bagels, mimosas, and monogramed napkins. But just who is this young man?

Stereotypes of any group often overlap and contradict themselves with Jewishness and queerness being no exception. Through pattern, appropriation, and parody, Friedman and Margulis explore the complex social mannerisms through which modern Jewish and homosexual identities materialized as traces of each other. From the hand-printed wallpaper to the photographs framed on his mantle, the installation aims to initiate a conversation about what these stereotypes mean, on what basis they are founded, and why some find them offensive.

NAPOLEON is an artist collective and gallery located in Philadelphia that strives to provide a platform for new work and new ideas. We are named for the small size of our gallery space—roughly 220 square feet—whose compact dimensions we hope to transcend in the exhibitions we produce. Started in the summer of 2011, NAPOLEON is comprised of ten members who share the managerial and curatorial responsibilities of running the gallery. We are both artists and curators, working together to create exhibitions that will increase collaboration and dialogue both within the collective and with the world at large. We are located in the Rollins Building, alongside colleagues such as Vox Populi, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Marginal Utility, Practice, and Grizzly Grizzly. The Rollins Building can be found on the edge of the Callowhill and China Town neighborhoods of Philadelphia. Street parking available.

Leslie Friedman is an installation artist and printmaker living and working in Philadelphia. Originally from Providence, Rhode Island, Friedman got her BA in Political Science from Brown University in 2005. During her time at Brown, she was active in the local music scene making silkscreened rock n' roll posters. Upon graduation, Friedman set out to see the world. For two and a half years, Friedman lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where her focus changed from posters to fine art prints. In 2008, Friedman moved to Philadelphia to pursue her masters of fine art in printmaking at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. Today, Leslie Friedman is a fellow at the Center for Emerging Visual Artists, the founder of the artist collective NAPOLEON, and a winner of the 2014 Fleisher Wind Challenge. She has shown nationally and internationally in group and solo shows. In addition to her art, Friedman teaches studio and seminar courses at a number of area colleges and universities.

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Bernardo Margulis is a Philadelphia-based graphic designer with a special interest in typography and patterns. Born and raised in Venezuela, Margulis moved to the US to pursue a career in graphic design, first with a degree from Philadelphia University and then an MFA from Temple University's Tyler School of Art. Before returning to Philadelphia, Margulis lived and worked in New York City for two years where he pursued a certificate in Typeface Design at Cooper Union. His professional experience spans small studios, non-profits, and large TV networks. His work has been shown, published, and awarded both in the US and internationally, including a solo exhibition at the Please Touch Museum in 2012. Margulis is currently an adjunct teacher and manages his design practice, *This Makes Me Happy*.

www.this-makes-me-happy.com

NAPOLEON is a collectively-run project space that strives to provide a platform for new work and new ideas.