

Celebrating 50 Years: 1975-2025

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joey Tepedino: *Why Does My Dog Stare At Me?*

February 1 - March 21, 2025



Joey Tepedino, *GRAT 647*, 2024, Mixed media on canvas, 48"x36"

After his critically acclaimed solo debut, Hal Bromm Gallery welcomes back Joey Tepedino for his second solo show. Tepedino is a self-taught outsider artist hailing from

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Pennsylvania. His new show *Why Does My Dog Stare At Me?* will be on view at Hal Bromm Gallery February 1st - March 15th, open Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 5 and by appointment.

In his second show with the gallery, Tepedino continues to toe the line between comedy and unease, employing his characteristic abstract, stream-of-consciousness style to question the seriousness of living in a world which seems to be falling apart around us. To Tepedino, his work is nothing more than material evidence of the way in which he already operates day to day. His work is every bit himself, to understand his art is to understand him. The piece is not the idea, the piece is the artist. Viewing the work makes you question not “what does this piece mean?” but “where did this piece come from?”.

Every available square inch of space on the canvas is covered in nonsensical existential musings, stick figures, or faces staring down the viewer. These faces often become the central motif of his pieces, their almost skeletal, haunting expressions creating a sense of unease that juxtaposes the absurd and humorous elements that surround them. His unique word play, random phrases and thoughts strung together, is exactly that, random. Inspired by a memory from elementary school, Tepedino explains “I remember when I was a little kid... and they were like write a story about whatever and if you can't think of anything just start writing nonsense and I thought that was the coolest thing ever... it just always stuck with me.”

Having no formal training or background in art creates an environment where Tepedino’s work is able to exist in a sphere of its own, not imitating previous art but being inspired by the essence of it. Working in bursts, his stream of consciousness comes alive revealing the humor and reactive nature of his personality. In an interview with Brut Journal, Tepedino stated that “Art is the messy stuff. It’s when you drop a camera, and it



Joey Tepedino, *Shut off the tv and go on your phone*,
2024, Mixed media on canvas, 36"x24"

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accidentally takes a blurry photo of your toe with a bottle of shampoo in the background. It's when you're trying so hard to draw a perfect line, but your fingers twitch because you sneeze. It's the paintings from the beginning that you can't stand to look at. It's the ones you throw away. It's anything you create that didn't exist before you created it." For Tepedino, the work of art is in the act of creating it. The paintings themselves are merely a physical record of the artwork that is the artist himself.

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About Hal Bromm:

A downtown pioneer, Hal Bromm established Tribeca's first contemporary gallery in 1975, followed by an East Village branch in 1984. Since its establishment, Hal Bromm Gallery has organized historically significant exhibitions in New York City and beyond, presenting and championing the early work of many important contemporary artists, among them Alice Adams, Carlos Alfonzo, Mike Bidlo, Andre Cadere, Rosemarie Castoro, Peter Downsbrough, Joel Fisher, Linda Francis, Luis Frangella, Judy Glantzman, Michael Goldberg, Keith Haring, Suzanne Harris, Paolo Icaro, Derek Jarman, Alain Kirili, Greer Lankton, Nicholas Moufarrege, Richard Nonas, Jody Pinto, Lucio Pozzi, Rick Prol, Walter Robinson, Russell Sharon, Kiki Smith, Ted Stamm, Lynn Umlauf, Jeff Wall, Krzysztof Wodiczko, David Wojnarowicz, Martin Wong, and Joe Zucker, highlighting the creative energy and depth of talent surfacing in Downtown Manhattan throughout the 1970s, 80s and beyond. For nearly five decades, Hal Bromm's rich history of collaborating with artists, galleries, museums and institutions on the development and curation of avant-garde exhibitions, has provided meaningful context around storied moments in contemporary art.