

# Theodore

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## Billy Jacobs *COMPLICIT*

September 3 - October 16, 2021

Reception: Friday, September 10, 2021, 5-8 pm  
Gallery hours Thursday–Saturday 12-6 pm

*Paranoia strikes deep  
Into your life it will creep  
It starts when you're always afraid  
Step out of line, the men come and take you away*

Theodore is pleased to present *COMPLICIT*, an exhibition of new work by Billy Jacobs. *COMPLICIT* is Jacobs' first solo exhibition at the gallery.

This body of work was rooted in the timeless phenomenon of witch hunts. The paintings depict performative displays of sensationalized investigation and dubious justice for real, alleged, or imagined crimes. Perhaps the goal is clarification for who did what, or else it is punishment often inconsistency applied. Irrational impulses course through the legal processes. Who gets away with what, and why?

The figures in the paintings represent all sorts of nefarious characters, high and low: conspirators, spies, lobbyists, state and non-state actors, twitter-bots, thieves, crooks, oligarchs, private contractors, cultural attaches, con artists, mercenaries, security services, smugglers, scramblers, burglars, gamblers, pickpocket peddlers, even panhandlers.

Billy Jacobs (b. 1985 Boston, Massachusetts) received a BFA from Parsons School of Design and his MFA from New York University in 2017. He has exhibited at Marlborough Chelsea, New York; FALSE FLAG, Queens, NY; Theodore: Art, Brooklyn, NY; RAG Gallery, Brooklyn, NY. Jacobs has also participated in the SWAB Barcelona Art Fair. In 2019 his installation, *House Arrest*, at NADAHouse on Governor's Island was reviewed by *The Art Newspaper*.