

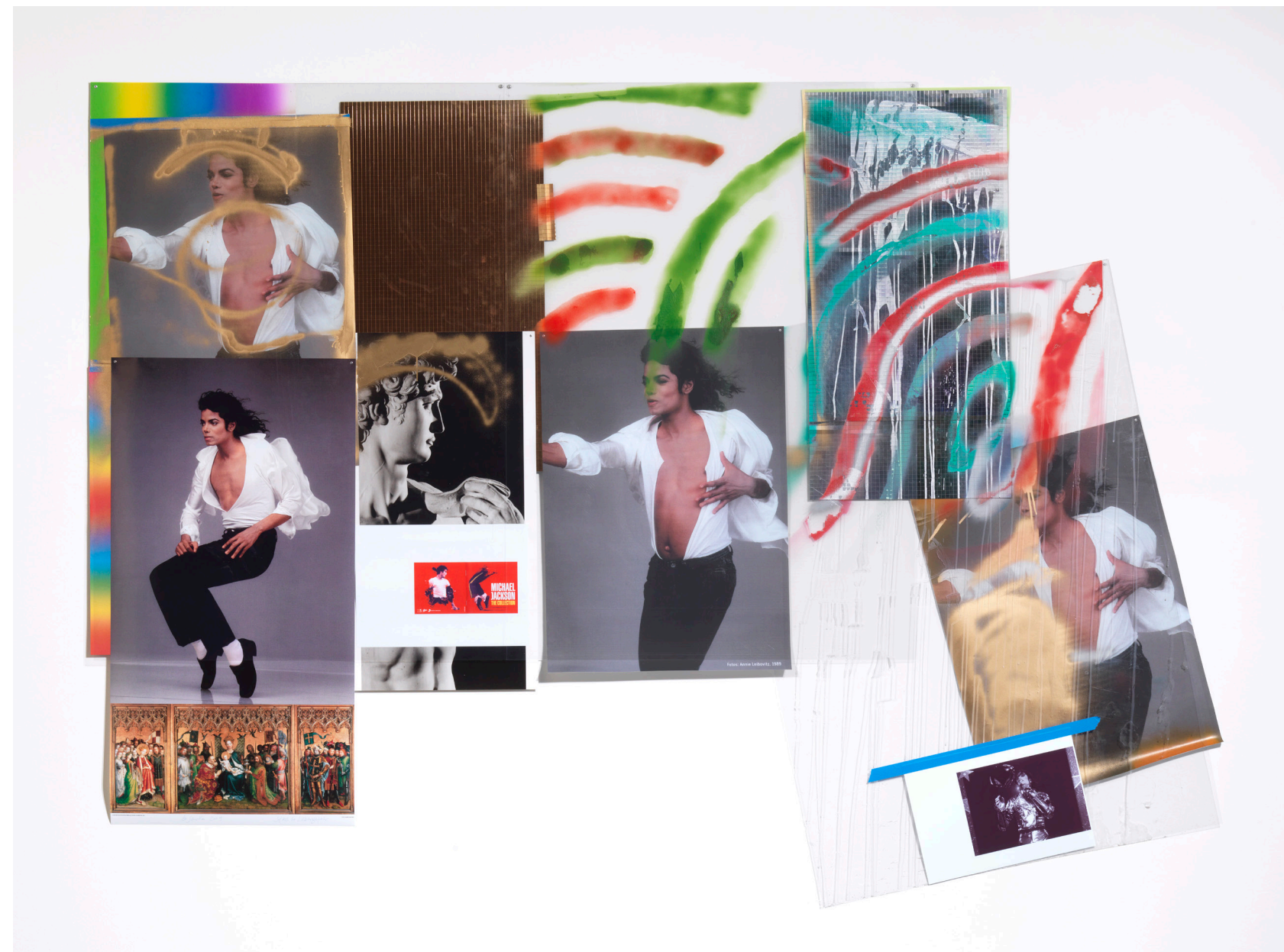
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Nicholas Cullinan

The Last Modernist





Isa Genzken

2

Michael Jackson: Four Video Stills from Unrealized Work, 2009

Plastic, poster, colour copies, mirrored foil, coloured paper, spray paint, tape
2005 x 2760mm

New York-based artist Birnbaum addresses the ideological and aesthetic character of mass media images, in particular portrayals of women, through installations and video-works for which she has won international recognition. Birnbaum was one of the pioneers of the establishment of film as an art form in the 1970s and a key player of that decade's feminist movement. During this time she used film to challenge gender biases and remark upon television's ever growing presence in America's households, most notably through the figure of Wonder Woman in her work *Technology/Transformation: Wonder Woman* (1978).

Lorraine O'Grady

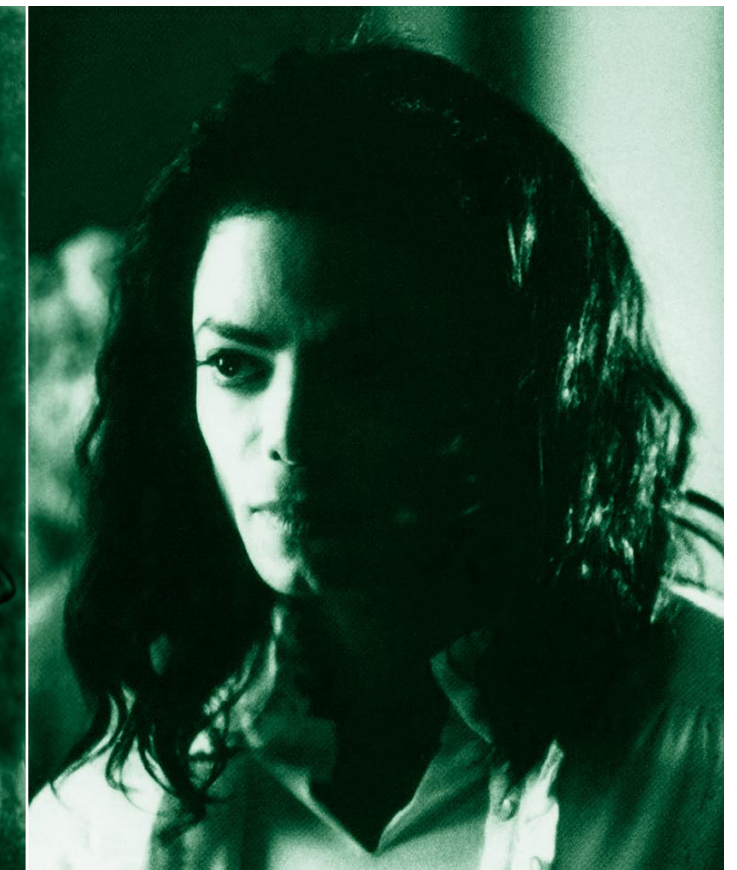
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3
*The First and Last of the Modernists,
Diptych 1 Red (Charles and Michael),
2010*

Fujiflex print
1189 x 9499mm

4
*The First and Last of the Modernists,
Diptych 2 Green (Charles and Michael),
2010*

Fujiflex print
1189 x 9499mm





5
The First and Last of the Modernists,
Diptych 3 Blue (Charles and Michael), 2010

Fujiflex print
1189 x 9499mm



6
The First and Last of the Modernists,
Diptych 4 Gray (Charles and Michael), 2010

Fujiflex print
1189 x 9499mm

Appau Junior Boakye-Yiandom

8
P.Y.T., 2009

Black penny loafer shoes, white ribbon,
latex balloons

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Andy Warhol

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9
Michael Jackson, 1984

Polymer and silkscreen on canvas
756 x 654mm





10
Michael Jackson, 1984

Acrylic and silkscreen on linen
752 x 660mm



11
Michael Jackson, 1984

Acrylic and silkscreen on linen
752 x 660mm

Chronology

29 August 1958

Michael Joseph Jackson was born the son of Joseph ‘Joe’ and Katherine Jackson, the eighth of ten children. His siblings are Maureen ‘Rebbie’ Jackson, Sigmund Esco ‘Jackie’ Jackson, Tariano Adaryl ‘Tito’ Jackson, Jermaine LaJuane Jackson, La Toya Yvonne Jackson, Marlon David Jackson, Steven Randall Jackson and Janet Damenta Jackson [Add in dates]. Marlon’s twin brother, Brandon Jackson, died shortly after birth. Michael’s father, a former boxer, was a steelworker and performed on guitar with a local rhythm and blues band called The Falcons. His mother was a devout Jehovah’s Witness and once aspired to be a country-and-western performer. The family lived in a two-bedroom house at 230 Jackson Street in a deprived area in Gary, Indiana, an industrial city near Chicago. Growing up Michael and his siblings were restricted from going out at night or playing with other children. They were brought up listening to and singing country music and folk songs and, when they purchased a television, they were introduced to R&B and soul music. Michael started listening to James Brown from the time he was 5 years old.

1961–5

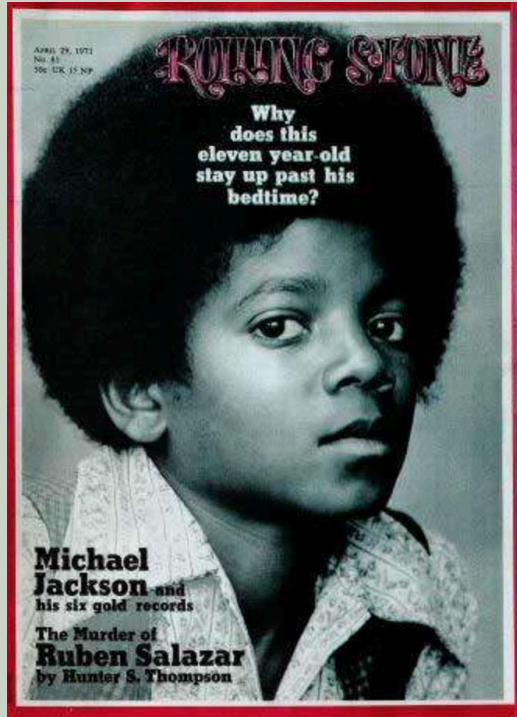
Tito, Jackie and Jermaine Jackson started playing together as a singing group in 1961. Marlon joined the group the following year and Michael joined in 1963. The group were managed by their father Joe Jackson, who was a strict and violent disciplinarian. The family had a studio at home and the group practiced for long hours after school. In 1965 Michael began sharing the lead vocals with his brother Jermaine and the group were named Jackson 5.

1966–7

Jackson 5 won an important local talent contest called the Roosevelt talent show in 1966. During this period, talent contests were an important platform for singing groups in America. The group began touring Midwest America, playing at a number of music clubs known as the ‘Chiltin’ circuit’ and opening performances for musical acts including The Temptations, The O’Jays, Jackie Wilson and Etta James. Jackson 5 also performed at night clubs, at local auditoriums and high school dances. In 1967 the group were awarded first prize at an ‘Amateur Night’ at Apollo Theatre, in Harlem, New York, one of the most highly regarded music clubs in the country.

1968

Having signed with a local record label, Steeltown Records, Jackson 5 released two singles ‘Big Boy’ (1968) and ‘We Don’t Have to be over 21 (To Fall in Love)’ (1968) but neither reached the charts. They stared working with the singer Bobby Taylor, who introduced them to Berry Gordy, the founder of Motown Records. The group signed with Motown in 1968, when Jackson was 10 years old. In the 1960s and 1970s Motown was one of the most successful independent record labels in America, representing many black musical artists such as The Supremes, The Temptations and Stevie Wonder.



Rolling Stone cover 1971

1969–71

The group released their first single ‘I Want You Back’ and first album Diana Ross Presents the Jackson 5 with Motown in 1969. Berry Gordy soon took over from Bobby Taylor and the band start being produced by a group of songwriters ‘The Motown Corporation’ in California with Michael Jackson as the lead singer. The group relocated to Los Angeles, where Jackson was introduced to Diana Ross, lead singer of The Supremes, who became a mentor to him, and he started living with her at her home in Beverley Hills. Jackson 5 worked for long hours, practicing and rehearsing. They released their second album *ABC* in 1970 and became the first group to have their first four singles, ‘I Want You Back’ (1969), ‘ABC’ (1970), ‘The Love You Save’ (1970) and ‘I’ll Be There’ (1970), at number one. ‘I’ll Be There’ is seen by many to be the first single by Jackson 5 to be praised by white critics who had previously dismissed the group a ‘bubblegum soul’. The family moved to an estate at Hayvenhurst Drive in Encino, California in 1971. Jackson later acquired the property, demolishing and rebuilding the house. During this period, Michael evolved from a child performer into a teen idol. In April 1971 he was the youngest person to feature on the cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine. The magazine article described Jackson as ‘a prodigy’ with ‘overwhelming musical gifts’ who ‘quickly emerged as the main draw and lead singer’ of Jackson 5. Jackson 5 begin their first national tour in October 1971.

1972-5

In 1972 Jackson began his solo career with two album releases with Motown, *Got to Be There* and *Ben*. He maintained ties with Jackson 5 and in the same year the group began their first European tour. Jackson released two further solo albums *Music & Me* (1973) and *Forever, Michael* (1975) with Motown. In 1975 Jackson 5 left Motown and signed with Epic Records, a subsidiary of CBS Records, becoming The Jacksons. Jermaine left the group and fifteen-year-old Randy joined. With Epic Records they had more freedom in writing and producing their music than they had with Motown. The group released six further albums between 1976 and 1984.



Got to Be There album cover 1972



Ben album cover 1972



Music & Me album cover 1973



Forever, Michael album cover 1975



The Wiz poster 1978

1977-8

In 1977 Jackson moved to New York to begin work on the film *The Wiz* (1978), a musical adaption of L. Frank Baum's children's novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* featuring an African-American cast, including Diana Ross, Nipsey Russell and Tedd Ross, in which Jackson plays the scarecrow. The music for the film was written by Quincy Jones, who agreed to produce Jackson's next solo album. During this time in New York Jackson was a frequent visitor at Studio 54 nightclub and was exposed to early hip hop, influencing his beat boxing on some of his later tracks. Jackson met and befriended Andy Warhol at Studio 54. During this period it is reported that Jackson began to feel self-conscious of his appearance and the affects of puberty on his skin.

1979

Jackson's album *Off the Wall*, co-produced by Jackson and Quincy Jones, was released with Epic Records in August, establishing Jackson as a solo performer. In the Spring Jackson broke his nose in a fall on stage and had his first rhinoplasty operation. This was later corrected by Dr. Steven Hoefflin, with whom Jackson maintained a medical relationship for more than twenty-five years. During this year The Jacksons embarked on their *Destiny* tour.



Off the Wall album cover 1979

Artist Biographies

Rita Ackermann

(b.1968)

Born in Budapest, Ackermann began her career in 1990s New York, where she lives and works today. She is best known for her early semi-abstract paintings featuring a female figure, often identified as the artist herself, through which she explored the environment of downtown New York and juxtaposed its scenery with that of otherworldly myths and fantasy. Her use of media has developed to be more wide-ranging since the early 2000s, from stained glass to red ballpoint pen, creating collages or designing t-shirts, underwear and skateboards. She has pushed the boundaries of ‘painting’ as an art form to explore gender and class and consider how they are constructed by fantasy. This has recently been combined with a new interest in Michael Jackson, which she discovered after his death. Her work has been included in numerous group exhibitions, most notably at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2011), and in the same year she had a major retrospective at the Ludwig Múzeum in Budapest.

Dara Birnbaum

(b.1946)

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Appau Junior Boakye-Yiadom

(b.1984)

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Candice Breitz

(b.1972)

Internationally renowned artist Breitz’s moving image installations explore the dynamics through which an individual develops in relation to a larger community, whether family, race or nation. Her recent work explores how and when empathy is produced in an ever-globalising world, in which audiences strongly identify with fictional characters and celebrity figures, but demonstrate indifference to those facing real adversity around the world. Breitz has been the subject of solo exhibitions at museums including Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark (2008), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2009), Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2009), South African National Gallery (2012), National Gallery of Canada (2013), and Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2014). She has also participated in numerous group exhibitions, most notably at Tate Liverpool (2002), Hayward Gallery, London (2008) and the British Museum (2016). She represented South Africa at the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017.

Njideka Akunyili Crosby

(b.1983)

Nigerian-born Akunyili Crosby moved to the United States at the age of sixteen in 1999, where she has lived and worked ever since. Her body of work largely reflects on her dual cultural identity, which she explores through images of everyday scenes, social gatherings and domestic interiors. Her works evoke an initial snapshot of intimacies between family and friends, with the narrative and gestural ambiguities only discernible upon a second reading. This process of layering is also reflected in her artistic practice, which uses a mixture of acrylic paint, transfers, collage, pastel, charcoal and pencil. Her works are held in museum collections including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Tate, London; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and Yale University Art Gallery.

Dexter Dalwood

(b.1960)

London-based Dalwood received his BFA from Central Saint Martins in 1985 and his MFA from the Royal College of Art in 1990. His (often) large scale oil paintings imagine the interiors of celebrity homes in subtly humorous and sometimes sinister ways, from Queen Elizabeth II’s bedroom and Gorbachev’s country retreat, to Jackie Onassis’s Mediterranean yacht and Liberace’s living room; they reflect not only the time and material culture in which they lived, but also the fragility of power and celebrity, notable through the famous figure’s absence. Dalwood was the subject of a major solo retrospective at Tate St Ives in 2010, and his works have been included in numerous group exhibitions, including those at Tate (2015, 2012, 2003, 2002), Royal Academy of Arts (2010), and the Whitney Museum of American Art (2007).