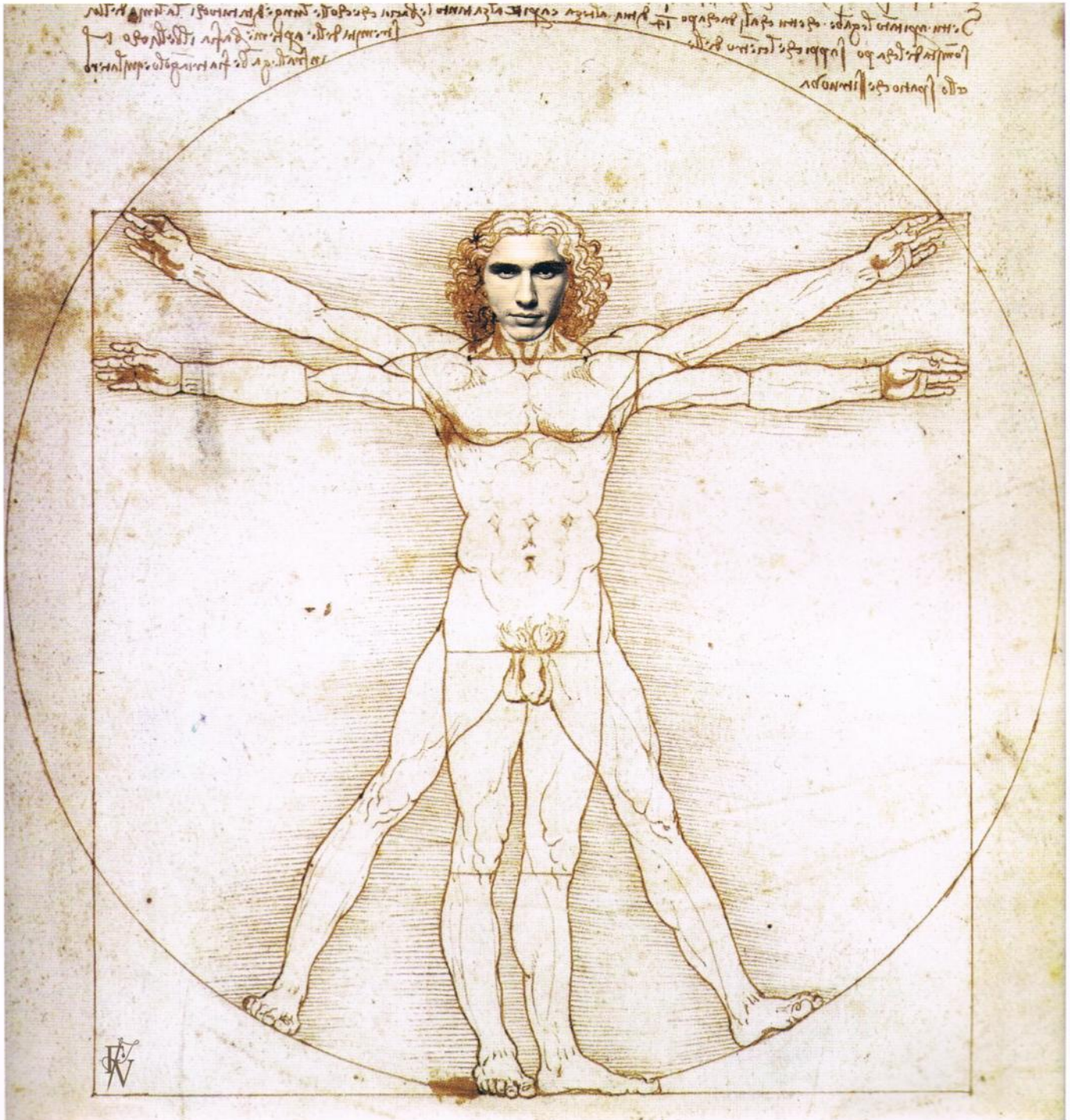


# Flash Art

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JAMES FRANCO AND FRANCESCO VE7701 I

## REVIEWS

### THOSE GHOSTS PERES PROJECTS - BERLIN

At Peres Projects Berlin “Those Ghosts” proves to be a more playful than haunting pairing of established artist John Kleckner and the rising Italian star Patrick Tuttofuoco. The care and craft of Kleckner’s hand-drawn works on paper are a pleasing contrast to the snappy clarity of sculptures.

The real eye-catchers are Tuttofuoco’s Pac-Man-like forms, made from colorful fabric draped over a sphere. Approaching them more closely, one can see their utterly empty interiors through a hole that alternately reads as an eye or gaping mouth. Cloth saturated with polyester epoxy allows these specters to hover on their pedestals as mere sheaths or masks. Made from colored plexi and coated pressboard recalling kitchen countertops, the bases reflect Tuttofuoco’s signature use of architectural forms and electric color. Here a peripatetic creature seems to have escaped its boxy maze — suggestive of the figure and base formula of classical sculpture.

While quieter, Kleckner’s works also play with appearances and expectations. One uncharacteristically expressive piece is a large drawing with a wash of branching

organic forms. Upon closer examination one finds that tiny, finely drawn flies inhabit this environment. There are also two exquisite drawings suggesting the patterned constellations and black ink of a starry sky. What seem to be compositions with one piece of paper imposed on another are actually single sheets in which different ink techniques have been skillfully applied to create the impression of a frame. Related works in an adjacent room include compositions with multiple pyramids and fragmented faces floating across the universe.

Although the latter nicely parallel Tuttofuoco’s mask-like forms, they seem to indulge in fantasy in a way that his romantic metamorphoses and mysterious figuration generally manages to avoid. The shift toward abstraction bears fruit in Kleckner’s work, as does the suggestion of the figure in Tuttofuoco’s. While the artists apparently did not plan it this way, “Those Ghosts” seems to have caused a number of happy accidents.

*Laura Schleussner*



PATRICK TUTTOFUOCO, David Bowies, 2010. Coated MDF, perspex, paint, wool, epoxy, resin, 125 x 61 x 220. Courtesy Peres Projects, Berlin.