



Palo Gallery Presents *Jane Hilton: LA Gun Club*
February 9, 2024 - March 23, 2024



From left: Jane Hilton, *TARGET H* (2016); *TARGET I* (2016); *TARGET J* (2016).
Courtesy the artist and Palo Gallery.

Palo Gallery is proud to present *LA Gun Club*, an exhibition by English photographer and filmmaker **Jane Hilton**. Renowned for her work documenting American culture, Hilton has explored the extraordinary realities of ordinary people for the past twenty-five years. Presenting a series of photographs of shooting range targets, Hilton continues her examination of subjects which blur the line between legal and social acceptability. The exhibition will be on view February 9 through March 23, 2024.

Across the United States, guns are a normal aspect of American life, providing users and owners a leisure activity advertised as 'sport and protection.' More than 300 million guns are owned by Americans, who take advantage of the breadth of firearm rights, regulations, and loopholes. By inhabiting a culture in which hunting has both a mythic and popular appeal, many ordinary citizens equate gun ownership with self-reliance. Gun ranges allow individuals to shoot live ammunition at target posters with the weapon of their choice. Despite waves of tragedy that sweep regularly through American society, guns--and gun violence--remain integral to U.S. culture.

LA Gun Club was conceptualized by artist Jane Hilton while living and working in downtown Los Angeles. Hilton remembers visiting a gun club at the suggestion of her assistant, writing: “I was given a ten-minute induction, and four different guns: an AK47, a rifle, Glock, and a .44 Magnum revolver, the same gun used by Clint Eastwood in ‘Dirty Harry’. I was then handed live ammunition to fire at a target of my choice. I was terrified. I had never held a gun in my life, and my hand was shaking.”

Hilton returned to Los Angeles six months later - but instead of her initial plan to photograph personal gun collections opted for a more conceptual approach. Remembering the paper targets from the gun club, Hilton chose to examine the visual images people opted to shoot. Hilton found each of the chosen targets extraordinarily provocative; caricatured Middle Eastern men, “thuggish” burglars, and kidnappers. Deciding she could achieve a more resonant statement by interviewing the gun club shooters, Hilton took their ‘shot up’ targets back to her London studio—preparing to shoot them herself. The result is a series of photographs and their accompanying text which creates a snapshot of American attitudes towards guns, gun use, and gun ownership.

The photographs were shot on a 5 x 4 in plate camera and are printed on archival digital etch paper. Each photograph is 30 x 22 in / 76 x 57 cm and are part of an edition of 7.

Notes to Editors

LA Gun Club is the subject of Hilton’s most recent monograph, “LA Gun Club” (self-published, 2016) which explores American gun culture through a collection of unique, ‘shot-up’ target posters. Other monographs include “Dead Eagle Trail” (Schilt Pub, 2010) depicting the lifestyle of the twenty-first century cowboy and “Precious” (Schilt Pub, 2013) featuring intimate nude portraits of working girls in Nevada.

About the Artist

Jane Hilton (b. 1962, United Kingdom) lives and works in London and has exhibited internationally. *Precious* is Jane Hilton's second monograph. Her first, *Dead Eagle Trail*, on cowboys of the twenty-first century, was published by Schilt Publishing in 2010. She was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society in 2014. Most recently Hilton was chosen as one of the 'Hundred Heroines' honoring the most inspirational women in Photography today. She has appeared in numerous major publications including *The Sunday Times Magazine*, *Telegraph Magazine*, and *FT Magazine*. Widely collected and exhibited, Hilton’s recent solo shows include: *American Cowboy*, Nailya Alexander Gallery, New York (2015); *Jane Hilton's America*, Schilt Gallery, Amsterdam (2014); and group shows *Real Wild Palo* Gallery, New York, *The Scarlett Muse*, Daniel Cooney Fine Art, New York (2016); *The Future Can Wait*, Charlie Smith Gallery, London (2014); *Knock-Knock*, Jerwood Gallery, Hastings (2013).

About Palo Gallery

Established in 2018 in New York City by third-generation art collector and dealer Paul Henkel, Palo Gallery brings to bear a tradition of art scholarship and patronage, working as a true

thought partner with artists to realize their visions and create dynamic presentations. Extensive research by the Palo curatorial team ensures that each exhibition is advised by the art historical canon and contemporary cultural touchpoints. In 2022, Palo Gallery opened its new 3,400-square-foot flagship space designed by Selldorf Architects in the NoHo district of Manhattan as the only dedicated partner showcasing Vica by Annabelle Selldorf. A destination of discovery, Palo Gallery's multifaceted program ranges from tightly curated, thematic group exhibitions to insightful art historically informed solo exhibitions spanning a breadth of artistic endeavors.

Since its inception, Palo Gallery has sought to incorporate thematic elements into its curatorial practice – whether it be group shows or solo presentations. Early exhibitions marked the gallery's foray into concept-driven presentations focusing on themes of memory and our most primitive instincts. *Memories Manifest* (2021) saw seven artists working in response to each other and the theme of memory, while *Primordial* (2021) investigated the ways that thoughts, emotions, reactions, and experiences speak to our most primitive instincts. The large-scale *Real Wild* (2022) presented an array of representations and interpretations of iconography from the American Wild West, a setting of which many of us have a collective archetype that the exhibition sought to re-contextualize. Building on the success of these conceptual group exhibitions, Palo has continued navigating contemporary cultural topics via art historical narratives with a number of solo exhibitions. Today, the gallery continues to showcase thematic presentations that offer Palo Gallery and its artists a unique opportunity to explore pivotal cultural and historical topics at a level that transcends those achieved via a standard solo exhibition. Palo Gallery is located at 30 Bond St., New York, NY.

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