

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Use Value

April 18 – May 17, 2026

Opening Reception: **April 18, 6–9 PM**

Presented at: **PRP** and **Jessamine**

Dallas, Texas

Use Value brings together a group of artists who treat the human figure as a contested image—one shaped by desire, power, and the politics of looking. Across painting, photography, video, and performance-based practices, the works approach portraiture as unstable: bodies are staged, fragmented, fetishized, obscured, or reclaimed, revealing how identity and sexuality are constructed and circulated through visual culture.

The exhibition places historically influential figures such as Adrian Piper, David Wojnarowicz, and Pope.L in dialogue with later generations of artists including Darja Bajagić and Brianna Capozzi, alongside emerging and mid-career voices such as Allen-Golder Carpenter, Sam Lipp, Ren Light Pan, and Willa Wasserman, among others. While their approaches vary widely—from confrontational performance gestures to intimate photographic studies and psychologically charged painting—each artist engages the body as a site where personal experience collides with broader systems of representation, including advertising, pornography, surveillance, and fashion.

Rather than offering fixed portraits, the works complicate the act of looking itself. Figures appear intimate yet mediated, vulnerable yet defiant, caught between self-invention and projection. The body becomes both evidence and fiction—a surface onto which systems of belief governing gender, sexuality, race, and autonomy are inscribed. In this context, portraiture shifts from likeness to circulation: images that seduce, disturb, implicate, or resist the structures that produce them.

Presented across two venues, PRP and Jessamine, *Use Value* is a generationally layered conversation about the body as both subject and battleground. By bringing canonical conceptual and performance-based practices into proximity with younger artists working today, the project underscores how the politics of representation remain urgent—particularly as images of the body continue to be weaponized, commodified, and reclaimed in contemporary culture.

Participating Artists:

Robin Aspen
Darja Bajagić
Krissy Bodge
Brianna Capozzi
Allen-Golder Carpenter
Alex Curington
Luna Gardiner
Jacob Michael Holler
Pope.L
Sam Lipp
Ren Light Pan
Adrian Piper
Valentina Vaccarella
Willa Wasserman
David Wojnarowicz

Venue Information

PRP

508 Fabrication St

Dallas, TX 75212

www.prp.agency

Instagram: @agencyprp

Jessamine

2720 Bataan St

Dallas, TX 75212

www.jessaminejessamine.com

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