

WORK is pleased to present ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS, a two-person show of photography by Brooklyn based artists Jonah Birns and John Taki Theodoracopulos. The exhibition will open with a public reception Saturday, January 17th at 7pm.

ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS features work from Birns' series An Uncanny Likeness, a collection of found group portraits subtly and seamlessly rendered so that the individuals in each photograph share a common but slightly altered face. The resulting mask they wear creates an uneasy familiarity among the groups, lending a surreal darkness and grotesque uniformity to the repeated, glazed over gaze of the individuals.

Originally from Philadelphia and currently based in Vinegar Hill, Jonah Birns has been creating work on computers for 10 years, primarily as a designer and retoucher. According to the artist, An Uncanny Likeness "arose from a desire to retouch images that were raw and ugly, creating not a fake beautiful person, but a fake person that was uncomfortable to look at." The unsettling nature of An Uncanny Likeness challenges notions of authenticity and beauty by harnessing the tools of photographic manipulation in the service of an odd and oftentimes horrific version of reality.

John Taki Theodoracopulos is a Red Hook based painter and graffiti artist. In the summer of 2008, Theodoracopulos began capturing tiny photographs on the camera of his cellphone. ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS includes about 80 photographs printed from that series, featuring images that oscillate between gloomy urban detritus to gorgeous, painterly plays of light and form. Shot with the eye of an abstract painter, Theodoracopulos' photographs are impressionistic and instinctive, pulsing with the energy of constant motion, illuminating a love of the ordinary and a search for the extraordinary in the locales of his native Brooklyn.