

CULTURED

ARTIST PROFILE

BAD BOY RECORDS

At first glance, **Yung Jake** comes off as a tech brat. The 25-year-old artist conducts interviews only via text message and claims that his artistic identity was “born on the Internet in 2011.” Though he’s dabbled in sculpture and painting, the ethos of the Internet reflects his essence of expression through humorous music videos and celebrity portraits made with emojis—his likenesses of Kim Kardashian and Larry David are uncanny. While the Los Angeles-based Jake (he was born and semi-bred in Sag Harbor) leaves it up to interpretation whether his schtick is process or persona, his work proves to be a truly modern and contemplative exemplification of society’s contemporary ills. Jake’s latest project, *Twisted Metal III*, showcases pieces of metal gathered from scrap yards and printed with images of empty, twisted Fiji bottles. His older brother, gallerist **Tripoli Patterson**, who’s hosting the show at his new East Hampton gallery, texted with Jake about his work and whether his enfant terrible guise is a joke that we’re all in on.

[TP:] You have a sec?

[YJ:] yeah

What work do you want to show in your upcoming exhibition in EH?

metal works

We talked about the dumpsters which are dope, then some metal wall pieces as well?

yeah

all Fiji bottles

Love it! I remember people giving you a hard time about whether you were a rapper or a painter or a director, or a fashion icon, etc. Now it seems that no one has a problem with that anymore. What do you think changed?

I think I more or less proved myself in all of those fields

A lotta Instagram 'likes' [on the picture above] since the last question...I'm super pumped to be hosting our first solo show with you this May in EH! How do you envision it going down?

really good. I'm excited to get out there

Although you are my Younger brother...I really look up to the way you constantly stay calm and cool when mad sh*t is happening for you and I try to learn how to do that. Do you ever feel any pressure or question things you're doing?

yeah. I do. But I think the speed of things keeps me going and doesn't give me much of a chance to contemplate

Are there any nerves in doing a solo show in EH?

not really I'm pretty comfortable doing a show there

What do you want people to walk away with?

art.

JAKE PHOTO BY ELIZABETH WEINBERG. EMOJI PORTRAIT COURTESY OF YUNG JAKE. TRIPOLI IMAGE COURTESY OF TRIPOLI PATTERSON



ONE MAN'S TRASH IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREATISE
 Yung Jake's "Fiji Bottles (Intertwined)" embraces vinyl wrap and scrap metal to illuminate the discarded artifacts in our culture.



And a new appreciation of my work

How is it working with [gallerist] Steve Turner?



great

And when is your next show with him?



we are having a show in Milan this week and then I have a solo in November

Sick! Steve rocks. You were telling me that you had a curator from MoMA ask you for a studio (which you don't have) visit so your gallery set up a fake studio for it. Was that supposed to be sarcastic or was it an effort to actually please the curator?



no I just tried to make a proper studio visit and to be able to talk in front of my work

How did it go? And when are they buying something for their permanent collection?



idk I hope soon

In a perfect world, would you prefer to have an actual studio? What would it look like and would you have studio assistants?



yeah that would be awesome

Where do you create most of your work now?



on my phone and on my computer. At my office at Adult Swim

Was gonna ask you if you're still working there.



I am



It's weird tho. I wish I could be devoting more time to it

Yeah, do they get heated about your schedule?



nah



But I don't think they are sending me to Upfronts [an annual gathering of the television industry where new shows and seasons are announced] this year which really bums me out

That sucks. But a sick crew over there and it's cool how supportive they are of your independent stuff. One last question: What do you see as the common thread that ties all your creations together?



swag

From May 23-June 21, Tripoli Gallery, 87 Newton Lane, East Hampton, tripoligallery.com