

## “Was it a dream that I loved?”

*Shade* by Logan T. Sibrel at 1969 Gallery

Review by Ernesto Renda

1969 Gallery presents *Shade*, a solo show of new paintings by Logan T. Sibrel, and I hope to draw some attention and offer some thoughts even if I can't go see it in person. On the other hand, my digital encounter with the works seems appropriate for this artist's recent elaborations on the idea of “working from photos”. Sibrel's paintings have a first read as dream-like, uncomfortable worlds where figures turn into other figures or plants or shadows. Their titles seem to act as tongue-in-cheek keystones that lead us into a meaning-making exercise. As representations, they have that jarring flattened space that is recognizable as that of collage compositions.

In the painter's recent works now on view at 1969 Gallery, the image-rendered-as-object is clearer than in previous works, where collage was more of a means to the end of painting. Here we are literally seduced by the “pin-up”, a small rectangular portrait tacked to the upper right-hand corner of *Shades* (2020) or Sibrel's 2019 painting, *Oh My*, hanging casually in the background of an intimacy scene, *Brandon and Malik*, which is actually the background of a “still-life with beer bottle.” The more perverse agency of collage can also be seen in *Curbside/Poolside* where a poolside lounge from one photo digs his hand into the crotch of a curbside youth in short-shorts from another photo or in *Pissing Into the Night*, where a de-faced figure in one photo is led to drink the urine of another figure who is flipping the camera off. The nature of the images as collage materials allows Sibrel to throw them together, allows them to touch, kiss, suck, etc. Their relationship as pinned-up images provides an intermediary one where their identities are obscured or abstracted. For me, the paintings materialize an inaccessibility in the love-object even in an era of heightened visibility, and hyperactive image-sharing for gay men. I look forward to seeing the works in person someday soon, but can cherish these images for now.



LOGAN T. SIBREL  
*Curbside / Poolside*, 2020  
Oil on canvas, 30" x 40"