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Alex Israel at Peres Projects

26 April – 15 June 2013



Alex Israel – Self Portraits (exhibition view). Courtesy Peres Projects

For artist Alex Israel, the global captivation with Hollywood and the film business is a personal thing. Israel grew up in Los Angeles, but not connected to the city's most famous industry. His parallel knowledge of and distance from his Hollywood-derived subject matter inverts the coveted position of the insider into what might best be described as an outsider-insider's eye view. Whether renting film props from studios for his installations or interviewing Los Angeles icons for his YouTube series *As It LAys*, Israel examines the constructions of the film industry and its surrounding culture in a manner that is as much Warholian as it is Wizard of Oz. Fame, beauty, and showmanship are darkly glorified, but we are left all too aware of the man behind the curtain.

In his second – and current – solo exhibition at [Peres Projects](#), the particular man behind the curtain whom Israel is exposing happens to be himself. The aptly titled *Self Portraits* comprises several color variations on the same painting of the artist's profile. Inspired by the logo from Alfred Hitchcock's television series, the

airbrushed surfaces were constructed at Warner Bros. Studio in Burbank out of fiberglass – a nod to another icon of Los Angeles, the surfboard. Putting his own face into the equation, Israel deepens his exploration of personality, myth, and constructions existing in Hollywood as well as the art world.

