

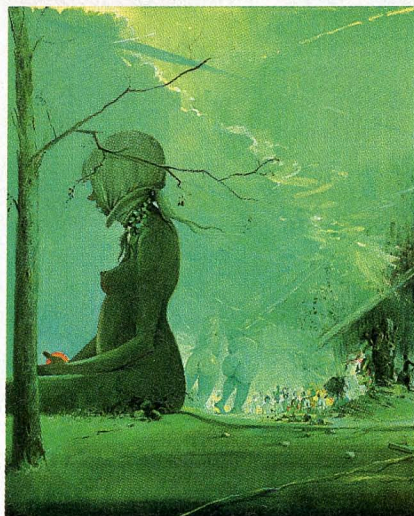
Flower power

Lisa Yuskavage's latest paintings and pastels take viewers on a love-generation trip back to the garden. By **Paul Laster**



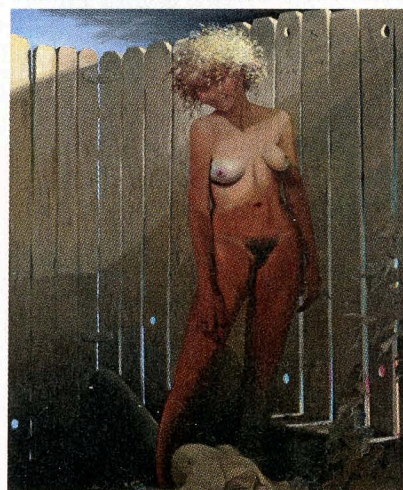
Known for her pneumatic nudes that bring to mind the Renaissance masters, Lisa Yuskavage has always been fascinated by psychology—her own and other people's, which to date has mainly meant women. But in her latest paintings and pastels, men crop up as part of a series on hippies, who, in her mind, represent the era in which she came of age. She delves into those memories and more in this look at her enigmatically groovy canvases.

Lisa Yuskavage is at David Zwirner Thu 23–June 23.



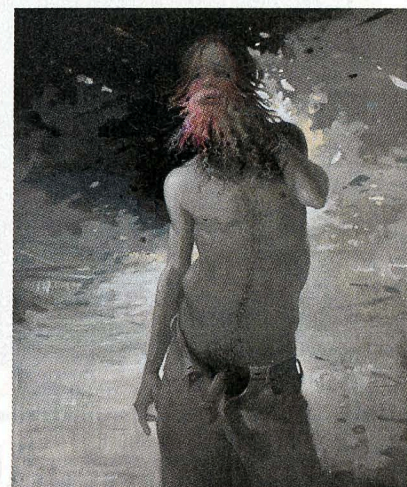
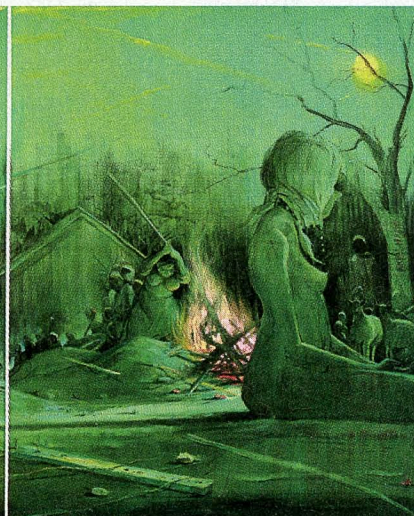
▼ THE NEIGHBOURS

"This image shows a storm brewing. It happens in most relationships, but there's also tenderness. The guy is lying down, being kicked by her, but both are having a good time. Among birds, females are drab and males are colorful. Here, I give the woman the spectral robe while relegating him to the shadows. But the painting only works if people are convinced that they love one another."



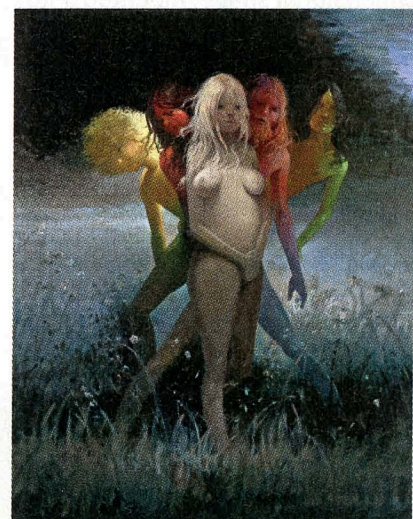
▼ BONFIRE

"This is the first diptych I've made in 25 years. The bookended twins are like a Rorschach image. The woman behind the bonfire is based on a figure beating a corpse from Goya's *Los Caprichos*. Something about her rage always stuck with me. Here you can't see what she's beating. The people behind her look like they're waiting for their turn at bat. It's like when some poor schmuck says something stupid on Twitter and everyone jumps in to take him down."



▲ DUDE LOOKS LIKE JESUS

"Years ago, I said that if I was ever going to paint men it would probably be Jesus and his disciples. I remembered that the first painting I'd seen of a dude who looked like Jesus was a self-portrait by a young Albrecht Dürer. Then I found a late drawing he'd made of himself nude, with his dick and balls hanging. His dick casts a long shadow on his leg, which I used. My dude, however, is a bit androgynous. He's got a sweet face, but he's still virile."



▲ HIPPIES

"This was the first painting in the group to depict hippies. I grew up in the 1970s, and I had an aunt who was a hippie and an uncle who was a Vietnam vet. And I had boyfriends—older guys—who were Vietnam vets too. The men behind the central female figure fan out to create a mandala effect. She's like a Hindu sculpture with many eyes and arms and legs. She's a figure with many inner personas."