

Robert Yoder
TEENAGE DONNA

frosch&portmann is pleased to present *TEENAGE DONNA*, the gallery's second solo exhibition by Seattle based artist Robert Yoder.

Dominated by large amounts of black or white paint, the rough density of Yoder's recent paintings reflect a charged ambience and precarious suspense as described in his anecdote about a late night and a lost past.

"It's 1979 and we're all getting stoned in Donna's house. Her parents are out of town and think she's spending the weekend with a friend. I haven't known Donna for long but we did attempt to date for a while and let it linger for another month or two. It didn't end so much as it just faded out. Right now I'm dating Jamie, her best friend. Jamie has hippie artists for parents and they officially named her James, which she finds embarrassing. When she meets a new person, someone eventually blurts it out and once again we see her learner's permit for proof. Jamie and I are sitting on the floor with our backs to the sofa and our feet under the coffee table. My best friend Rodney is with us, he's rolling another joint. I don't know what he does to do it, but his fingernails are always bleeding or torn up and watching him is gross and exciting. We went to Myrtle Beach once and ended up wrestling on the bed. I think he got a hard-on too but we didn't do anything.

Donna keeps playing Off The Wall, she just got it and thinks it's the best. She has that round moon-face that makes it easy for her to put on too much makeup. Her hair is yellow and parted in the middle and she uses rollers each night to get her bangs to flip out like they do. All of us are ridiculously preppy with our topsiders and colorful Dickies and Jamie has that plaid skirt with the giant safety pin closure. Donna steals it though with her Ladies White Izod Polo, always fresh. The only thing I can think that makes her unique is that she chain smokes Eve cigarettes, menthol of course. On weekends and a few nights she works at K-Mart. For now, it's still a respectable store but it's no Belk-Leggetts or Rhode's. Her paycheck goes towards clothes and pot and cigarettes. We know older guys that we get drunk with every now and then but we don't give them money for it. We're kids, we don't understand the rules yet."

Born in Danville, VA, Robert Yoder lives and works in Seattle. He received his B.F.A. from the James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA and his M.F.A. from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

April 10 – May 18, 2014

Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, noon – 6pm