

Robert Lazzarini

Rated R for violence, Curated by Emma Frank

June 26 – August 14, 2021

THE FILM ADVERTISED HAS BEEN RATED

RESTRICTED

R

Under 17

Requires Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian

STRONG
INCLUDING BLOODY VIOLENCE
DRUGS
SOME G CONTENT AND
ME NUDITY



R

"Movies have become more violent over the years and the descriptor text before previews reflects that. It seems that we are in a state of constantly upping the ante. Where is your comfort zone for graphic violence? Rape, violence, abuse can exist on screen, in your mind, or they can actually happen to you. A lot of people have had rated R experiences. Watching rape isn't being raped...or is it?" – Emma Frank

Lowell Ryan Projects is pleased to present an exhibition of Robert Lazzarini's most recent paintings titled *Rated R for violence* curated by Emma Frank. Lazzarini's paintings are based upon the ubiquitous red title cards seen prior to movie previews. Indicating "appropriate for mature audiences only," Lazzarini's paintings emphasize violence as entertainment and the descriptive language as a reflection back upon the viewer.

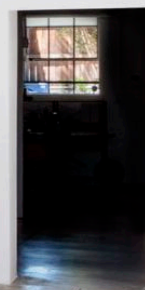
The Movie Picture Association of America first introduced descriptor texts on the red title card in 1990, and they were displayed more prominently as of 2013. The language used in the texts reduces the movie's mature content to a few abject descriptive lines. The artist titles the paintings with each descriptor as a way of highlighting both the repetition of words and how they function as a proxy for the movie itself.

Lazzarini applies mathematical distortions to the image as a way to offset the observer and complicate the space of the composition. The horizontal fields of red within each painting are filled with an ever expanding and contracting text. The artist refers to the diverse mark making in the language of bodily injury such as nicks, scrapes, cuts, and abrasions. The repetition of specific loaded words within each of the paintings generates a sense of unease. The scale of these works are realized in two aspect ratios: 1.85:1 known as Flat or Theatrical Widescreen, and 2.39:1 known in the film industry as Scope or Cinemascope. Here the paintings tether to the formats that the corresponding films are shot in—a way for the artist to refer to the space of viewing films.

Included in the exhibition is a suite of small paintings depicting video game ratings by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB). Rated M for mature content, the descriptor language parallels that of the rated R movies, highlighting the disturbing and violent nature of the games.

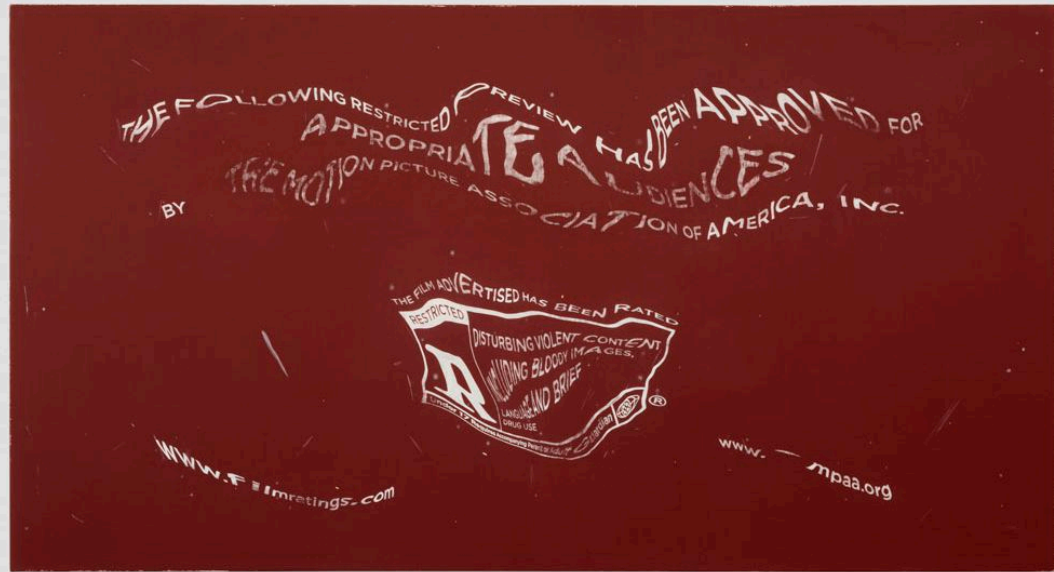
The fact that Americans are increasingly obsessed with heightened levels of violence in our entertainment says as much about the commodification of violence as it does about the ever-increasing blur between violence in reality and fictional violence. The prevalence of violence across all media adds to this confusion. *Rated R for violence* focuses on America's dark fascination and language as a signifier for the pain and suffering of others.

For more information please contact: info@lowellryanprojects.com





Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for DISTURBING VIOLENT CONTENT INCLUDING BLOODY IMAGES, LANGUAGE AND BRIEF DRUG USE
(The Sacrament)
2021
Oil and acrylic on canvas
40 1/4 x 74 1/4 inches
RL-007



Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for *DISTURBING*
VIOLENT CONTENT
INCLUDING BLOODY
IMAGES, LANGUAGE AND
BRIEF DRUG USE
(The Sacrament)
2021

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RESTRICTED

DISTURBING VIOLENT CONTENT
INCLUDING BLOODY IMAGES,

LANGUAGE AND BRIEF
DRUG USE

Under 17

Requires Accompanying Parent or Adult

Guardian



THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTED PREVIEW HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR
APPROPRIATE AUDIENCES
BY THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.



www.filmratings.com

www.mpa.org

Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for BLOODY
VIOLENCE: TERROR AND
LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT
(As Above, So Below)
2021

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Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for *BLOODY VIOLENCE: TERROR AND LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT* (As Above, So Below)
2021
Oil and acrylic on canvas
40 1/4 x 96 inches
RL-002

RESTRICTED PREVIEW HAS BEEN
APPROPRIATE AUDIENCE
PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF

THE FILM ADVERTISED HAS BEEN RATED

RESTRICTED

R

BLOODY VIOLENCE / TERROR,
AND LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT

Under 17 requires Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian

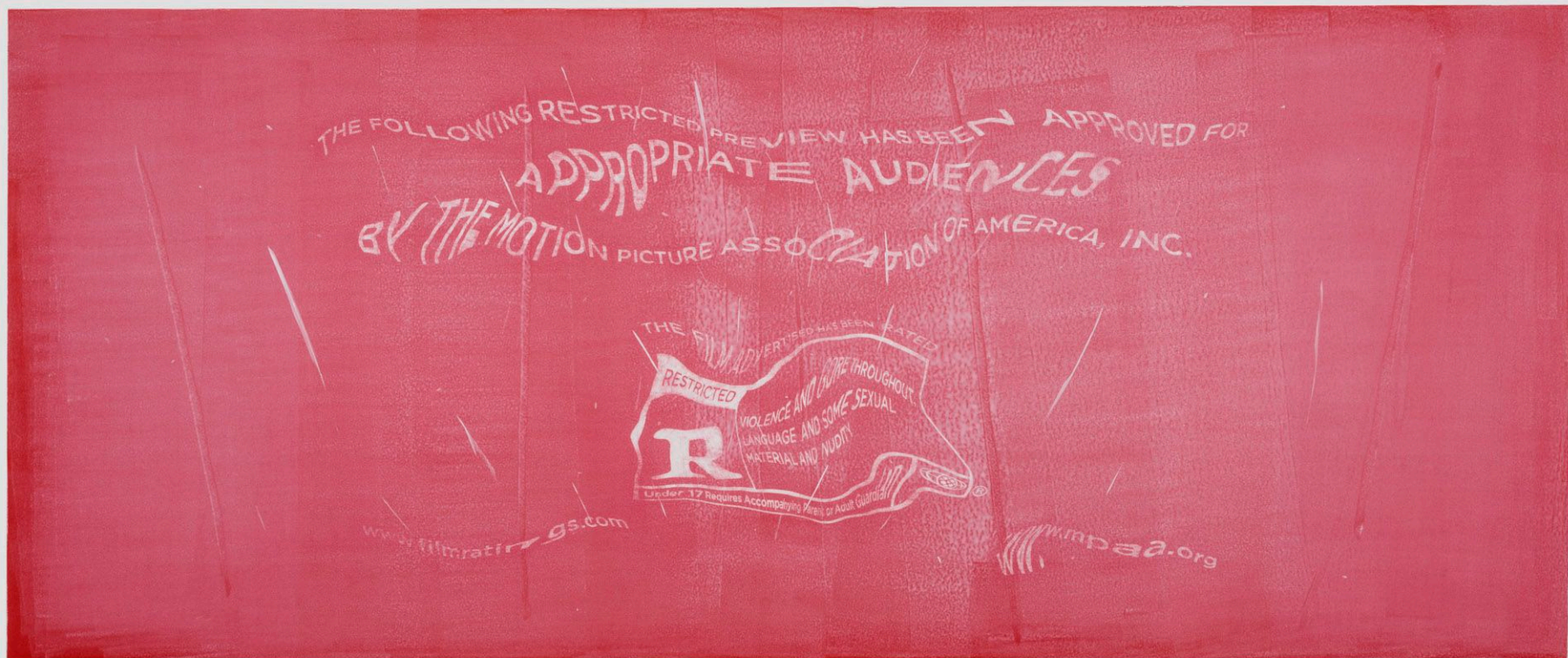


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Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for BLOODY VIOLENCE / TERROR, AND
LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT
(As Above, So Below) (detail)
2021



Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for VIOLENCE AND
GORE THROUGHOUT,
LANGUAGE AND SOME
SEXUAL MATERIAL AND
NUDITY
(Death Race 2050)
2021



Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for VIOLENCE AND GORE THROUGHOUT, LANGUAGE AND SOME SEXUAL MATERIAL AND NUDITY
(Death Race 2050)

2021

Oil and acrylic on canvas

40 1/4 x 96 inches

RL-005

Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for VIOLENCE AND GORE THROUGHOUT,
LANGUAGE AND SOME SEXUAL MATERIAL AND
NUDITY
(Death Race 2050) (detail)
2021





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R
Under 17 Requires Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian
STRONG BLOODY VIOLENCE
INCLUDING RAPE, LANGUAGE,
DRUG CONTENT AND
SOME NUDITY

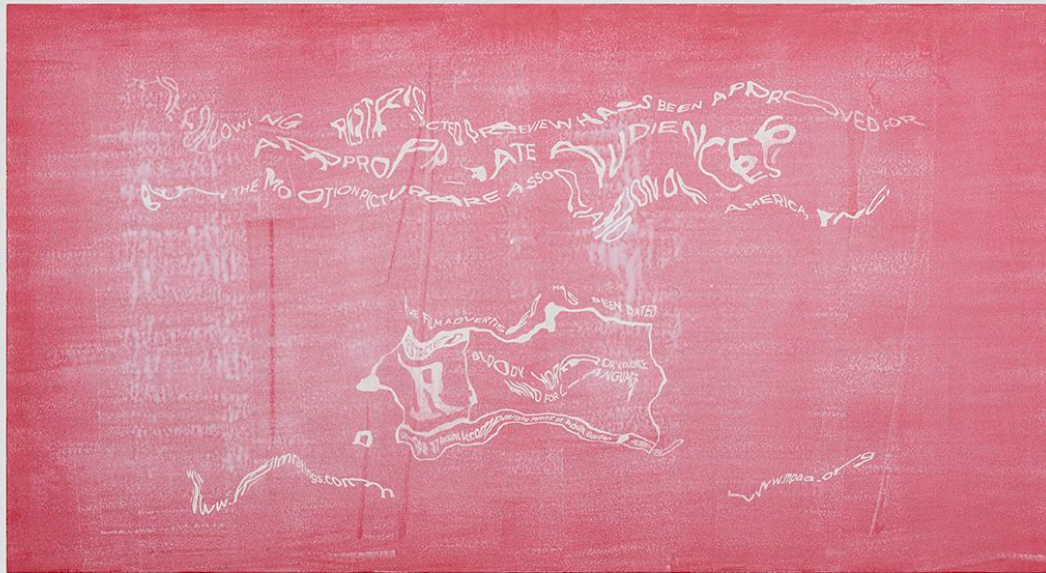
www.filmratings.com

www.mpaa.org

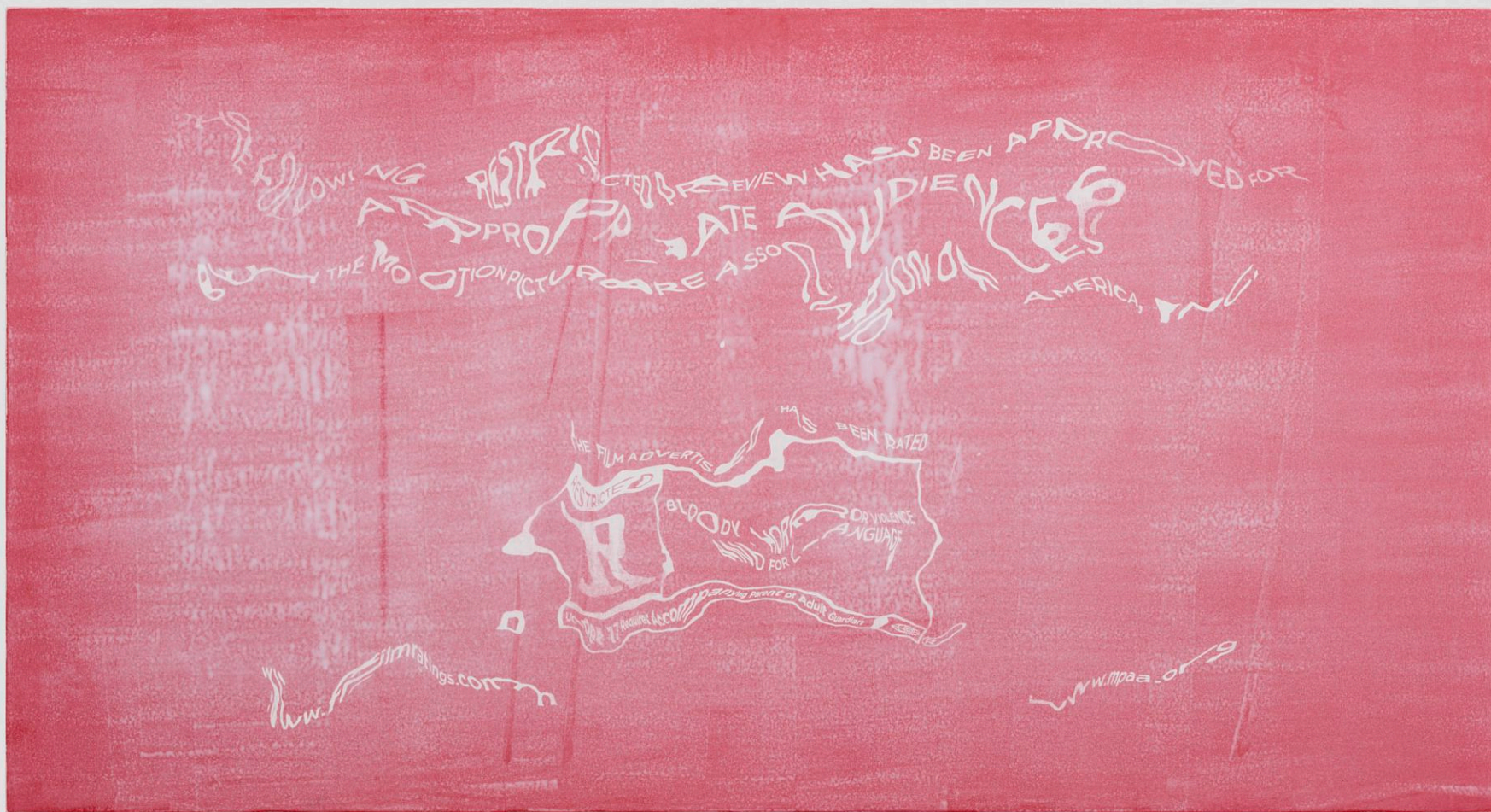
Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for STRONG BLOODY VIOLENCE INCLUDING RAPE, LANGUAGE, DRUG CONTENT, AND SOME NUDITY
(Aftershock)
2021
Oil and acrylic on canvas
40 1/4 x 74 1/4 inches
RL-008

NEW HAS BEEN APPROV

AUDIENCES
OCIATION OF AMERIC



Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for BLOODY
HORROR VIOLENCE AND
FOR LANGUAGE
(Curse of Chucky)
2021



Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for BLOODY HORROR VIOLENCE AND FOR LANGUAGE (Curse of Chucky)
 2021
 Oil and acrylic on canvas
 40 ¼ x 74 ¼ inches
 RL-006

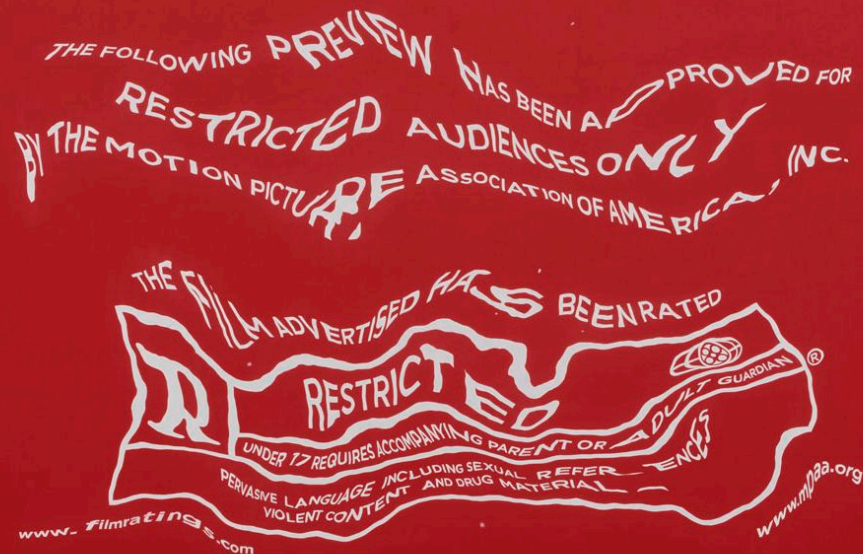


Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for BLOODY HORROR VIOLENCE AND FOR
LANGUAGE
(Curse of Chucky) (detail)
2021

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Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for PERVASIVE
LANGUAGE INCLUDING
SEXUAL REFERENCES
VIOLENT CONTENT AND
DRUG MATERIAL
(American Psycho)
2021

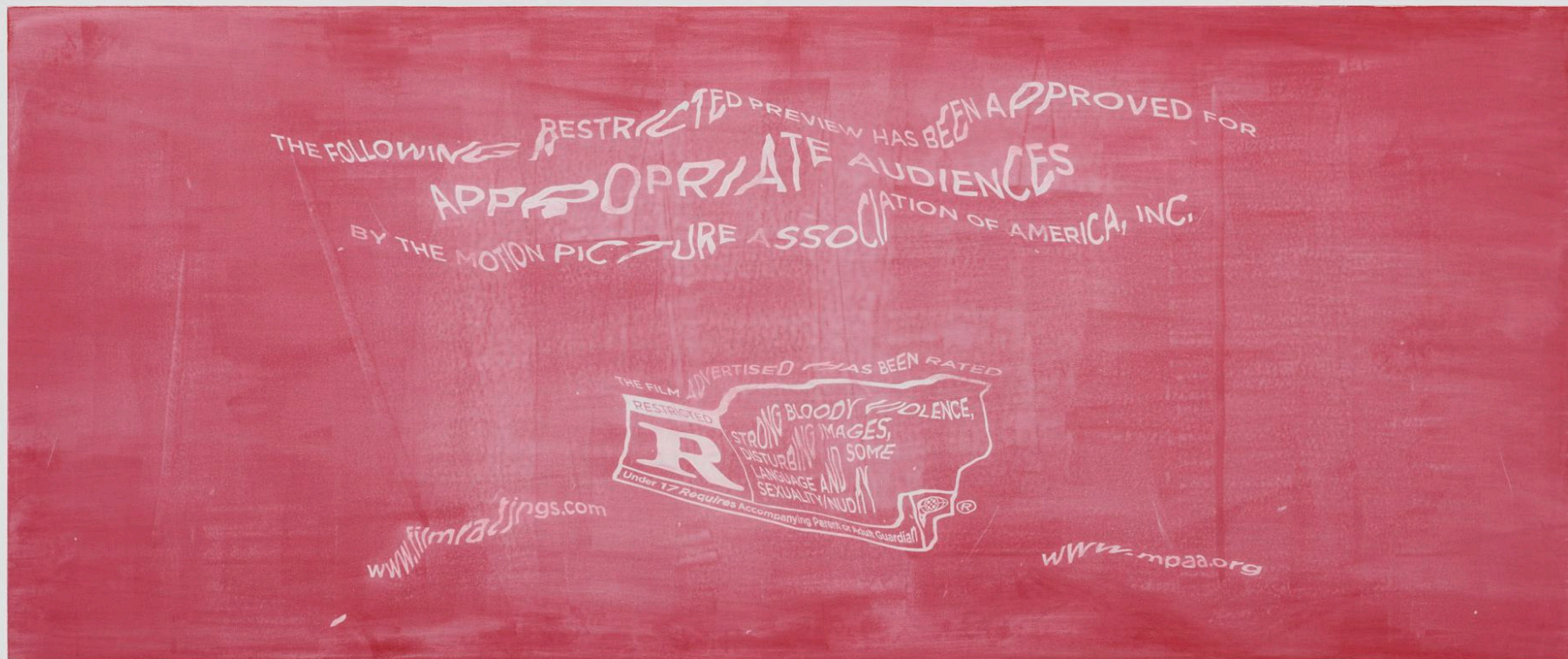


Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for PERVASIVE LANGUAGE INCLUDING SEXUAL REFERENCES VIOLENT CONTENT AND DRUG MATERIAL
(American Psycho)
2021
Oil and acrylic on canvas
40 1/4 x 96 inches
RL-003

ADVERTISED MARKS BA

RESTRICTED

17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING PARENT
LANGUAGE INCLUDING SEXUAL REF
TENT AND DRUG MATERIAL



Robert Lazzarini

Rated R for STRONG BLOODY VIOLENCE, DISTURBING IMAGES, LANGUAGE AND SOME SEXUALITY: NUDITY
(Leatherface)

2021

Oil and acrylic on canvas

40 1/4 x 96 inches

RL-004



Robert Lazzarini
Rated R for STRONG BLOODY VIOLENCE,
DISTURBING IMAGES, LANGUAGE AND SOME
SEXUALITY: NUDITY
(Leatherface) (detail)
2021

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Robert Lazzarini

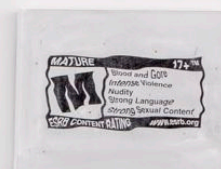
Rated R for ABERRANT BEHAVIOR, BLOODY AND GRISLY IMAGES, STRONG SEXUALITY, NUDITY, LANGUAGE AND DRUG USE:
PARTYING (The Cell)

2021

Oil and acrylic on canvas

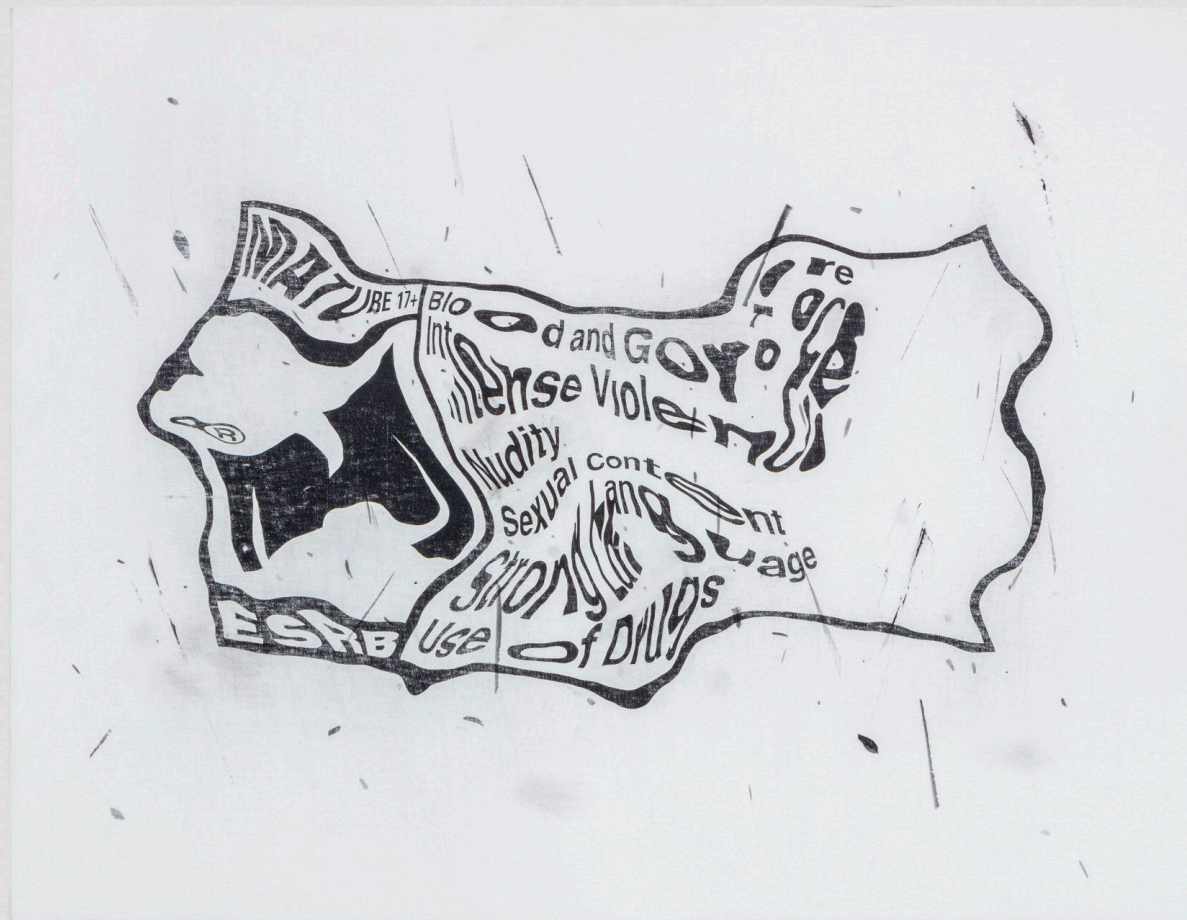
40 1/4 x 96 inches

RL-001





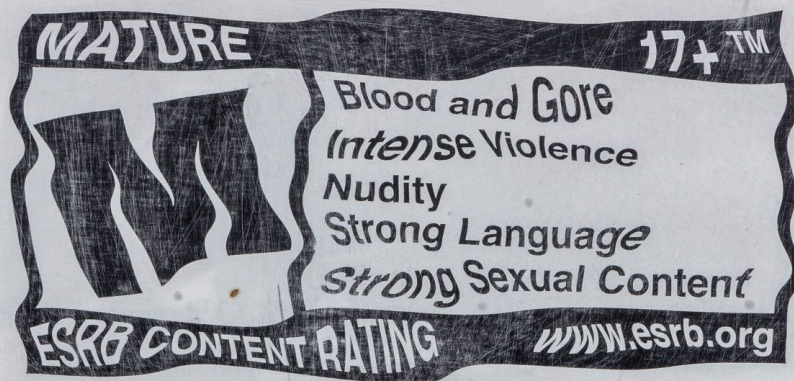
Robert Lazzarini
*Rated M for Blood, Drug
Reference, Intense
Violence, Language
(Call of Duty-Modern
Warfare 2)*
2021
Acrylic and oil on canvas
17 x 22 inches
RL-014



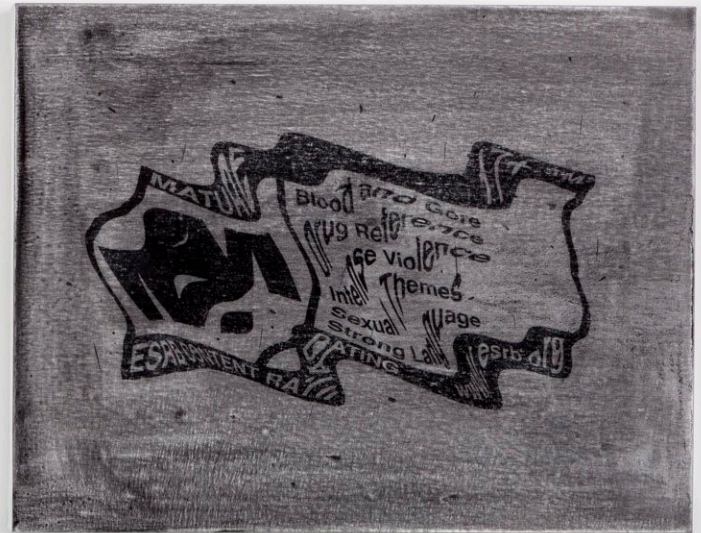
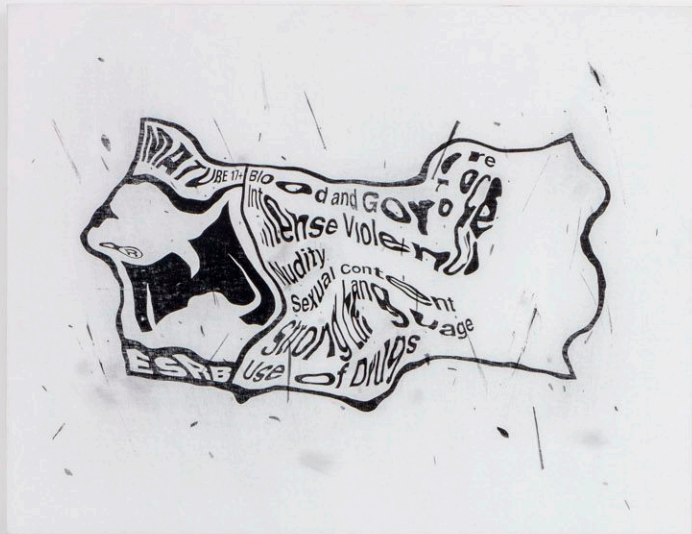
Robert Lazzarini
*Rated M for Blood and
Gore, Intense Violence,
Nudity, Sexual Content,
Strong Language, Use of
Drugs*
(*The Last of Us Part II*)
2021
Acrylic and oil on canvas
17 x 22 inches
RL-011



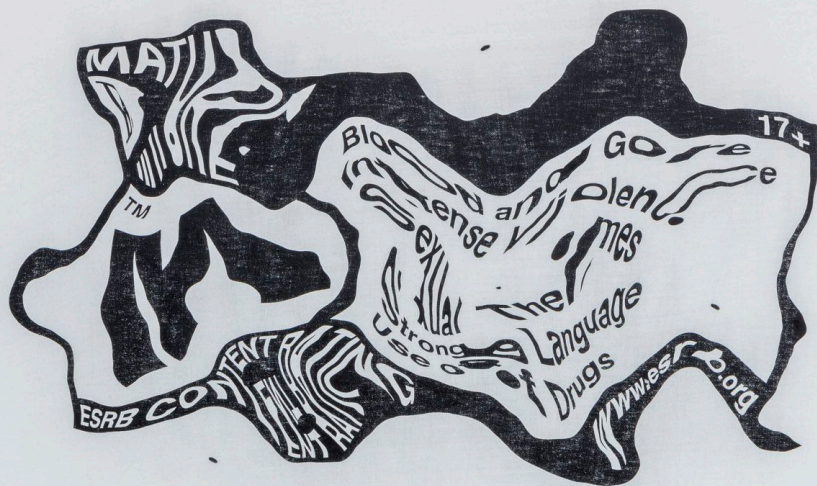
Robert Lazzarini
*Rated M for Blood and
Gore, Drug Reference,
Intense Violence, Sexual
Themes, Strong Language
(BioShock)*
2021
Acrylic and oil on canvas
17 x 22 inches
RL-009



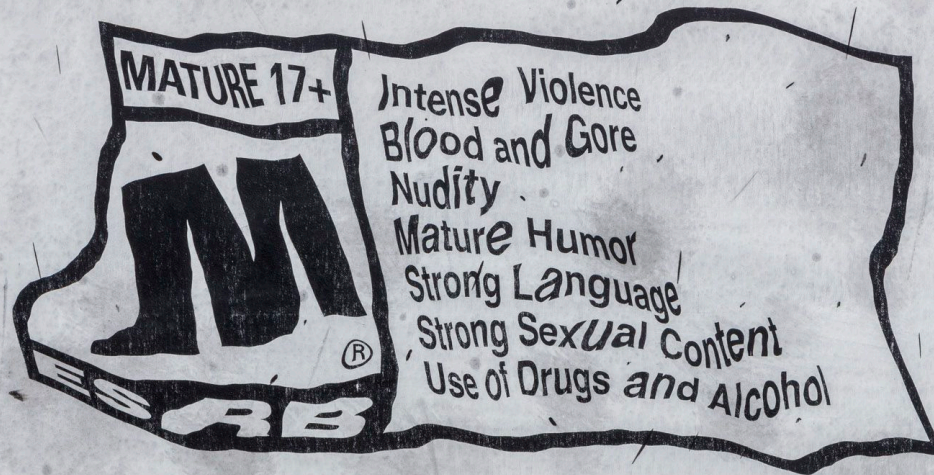
Robert Lazzarini
*Rated M for Blood and
Gore, Intense Violence,
Nudity, Strong Language,
Strong Sexual Content
(God of War III)*
2021
Acrylic and oil on canvas
17 x 22 inches
RL-012



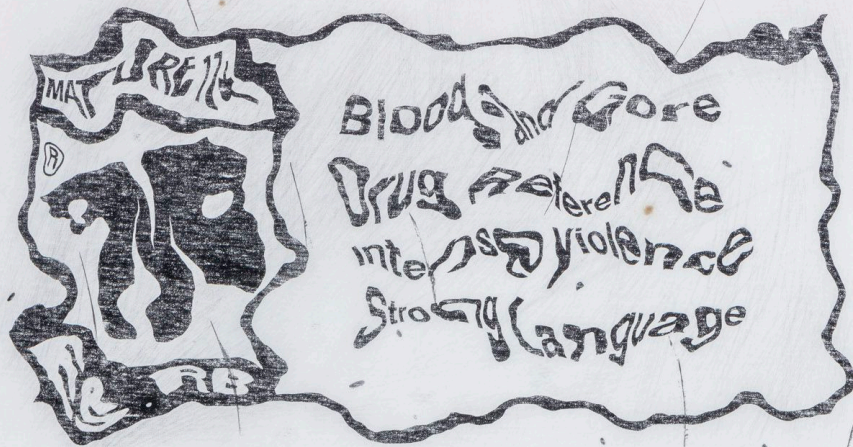
Installation view:
Robert Lazzarini, *Rated R for violence*



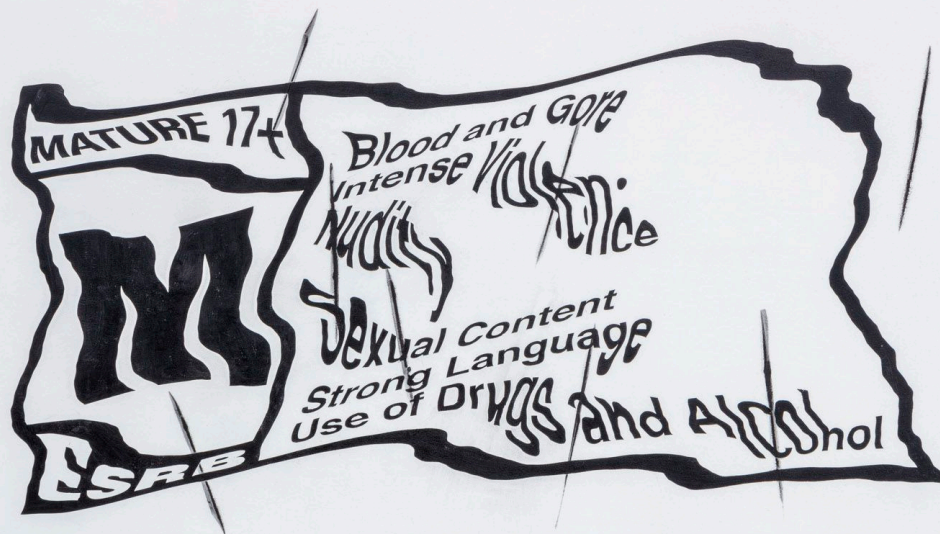
Robert Lazzarini
*Rated M for Blood and
Gore, Intense Violence,
Sexual Themes, Strong
Language, Use of Drugs
(Fallout)*
2021
Acrylic and oil on canvas
17 x 22 inches
RL-013



Robert Lazzarini
*Rated M for Intense
Violence, Blood and Gore,
Nudity, Mature Humor,
Strong Language, Strong
Sexual Content, Use of
Drugs and Alcohol*
(*Grand Theft Auto V*)
2021
Acrylic and oil on canvas
17 x 22 inches
RL-015



Robert Lazzarini
*Rated M for Blood and
Gore, Drug Reference,
Intense Violence, Strong
Language*
(*Call of Duty- Advanced
Warfare*)
2021
Acrylic and oil on canvas
17 x 22 inches
RL-010



Robert Lazzarini
Rated M for Blood and
Gore, Intense Violence,
Nudity, Sexual Content,
Strong Language, Use of
Drugs and Alcohol
(Red Dead Redemption 2)
2021
Acrylic and oil on canvas
17 x 22 inches
RL-016



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Robert Lazzarini (b. Denville, NJ, 1965) lives and works in New York, NY. Lazzarini uses the language of mathematical distortion as a way to question the habitual way we view images and objects. His work often employs the formal strategy of variation and repetition as a foil to the static nature of painting and sculpture. The artist's themes include societal malaise and America's preoccupation with violence and criminality.

Robert Lazzarini has exhibited internationally with galleries including Deitch Projects, New York, NY; Dittrich Schlechtriem, Berlin, Germany; Honor Fraser, Los Angeles, CA; Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY; and Marlborough Chelsea, New York, NY. His works are included in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; and The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC amongst many others. Lazzarini's exhibitions have been reviewed and discussed in numerous publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Frieze*, and *Art in America*. Robert Lazzarini is represented in Europe by Dittrich Schlechtriem, and will have works featured in the exhibit *Seeing and Perceiving* at Ithra, Saudi Arabia opening in June, 2021.

Previous image: Robert Lazzarini's studio in Brooklyn, NY