Arena

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TMAGAZINE.COM

n's eldest son is gay was
nd a catalyst for Mr. Jack-
career as a TV, film and
r, to commit to paper his
om: "When I rejoiced that
s really wishing for the
community, the camarade-
The incredible beings who
munity, who against all
es," he writes. "But you
ust the good parts: Your
uched by all the difficult

Jackson says, he wanted to
needed when he was grow-
oked to late-20th-century
ow to be gay." So to cele-
ublication, and his own
lineage of queer author-
(near left) and his hus-
producer Jordan Roth (far
ed a dinner party at their

ARTIST'S QUESTIONNAIRE

The Gowanus School

The painter Lisa Yuskavage, who grew up a truck driver's daughter in what she describes as the "hardscrabble" Juniata Park neighborhood of Philadelphia, now lives in Midtown Manhattan with her husband, the artist Matvey Levenstein, and their cockapoo, Phillip. But for the past 10 years, Ms. Yuskavage, 57, has made the daily journey to a quiet corner of Gowanus, Brooklyn, where she keeps her studio, a cavernous 4,000-square-foot space in a low-rise brick building that she has cleaved down the middle with a 40-foot-long wall. She compares the two sides to the two halves of her brain. In the back room, spare and suffused with Northern light, Dionysian Lisa lets her "id run amok" on canvas; in the bookshelf-lined front room, Apollonian Lisa — "rational, logical, organized" — tends to the business of being a successful contemporary artist. "I have to be pretty un-self-conscious when I'm working," Ms. Yuskavage says one recent afternoon. "And then later I become *extremely* conscious." As the elevated F train rumbled by her window, Ms. Yuskavage answered T's artist's questionnaire. More at tmagazine.com.

JULIA FELSENTHAL

WHAT'S YOUR DAY LIKE?

I sleep more or less eight hours and wake up around 7:30. We have this enjoyable routine where Matvey gets up first and makes us espressos, and my dog, Phillip, who sleeps at the foot of the bed pretends to keep sleeping. Then Matvey gets back into bed and Phillip — surprise! — wakes up. He runs over to Matvey and kisses him on both cheeks. It brings me so much joy.

HOW MANY HOURS OF CREATIVE WORK?

Eight to 10 hours if I can sustain it. But I often solve the problems of my work when I'm not in front of the paintings.

YOUR WORST STUDIO?

Around 1990, Matvey and I lived on Ludlow Street. We call it the bad old days of Ludlow Street. I used the living room as a studio. Every day at 4 o'clock, which even now is when I really get going, the woman below us would start cooking. She used rancid cooking oil, and the smell was so overwhelming.

WEIRDEST OBJECT IN YOUR STUDIO?

I have a toilet-paper cozy in my bathroom, which is essentially a Barbie doll stuck through the middle of the roll.

JASON SCHMIDT (LISA YUSKAVAGE); PAUL QUITORIANO (JORDAN ROTH AND RICHIE JACKSON'S DINNER)