

Sullivan Goss

AN AMERICAN GALLERY

11 EAST ANAPAMU STREET
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 730-1460

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 26, 2021



REAL WOMEN

REALIST ART BY AMERICAN WOMEN

FEBRUARY 26 - April 26, 2021

THIS EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FOR SOCIALLY DISTANT VIEWING. GALLERY VISITS ARE LIMITED TO EIGHT MASK-WEARING GUESTS AT A TIME. YOU CAN ALSO SEE THE ENTIRE EXHIBITION ONLINE.

SANTA BARBARA, CA - Sullivan Goss is proud to present an important and timely exhibition devoted to that most American of artistic sensibilities, Realism. ***REAL WOMEN: Realist Art by American Women*** will showcase women artists who see the world around them with clear eyes and who work to relay their vision with clarity and precision. The exhibition will coincide with Women's History Month and will follow the historic swearing in of the nation's first female Vice President. It also tracks the increasing interest in the artistic production of women in both auctions and museums. Realism is a high-craft affair and arrives to us in 2021 from the deepest of our American traditions. It requires dedication. It can be subtle; it can be beautiful; it can be complicated, intricate, and sharp.

The works included cover the last **ninety years** and will feature **drawing, oil painting, print-making, and photography**. Some of the artists were trained in the **contemporary atelier tradition** revived from the teaching methods of the late nineteenth century Academies. Others had to find a way to get training that had grown rare by the 60s or 70s, braving a market whose biggest rewards were still reserved for men as well as a critical consensus that Realism was a retrograde gesture. These women made the hard choice and did the work, though.

Some of these artists use their technique to show us the world exactly as they find it; these are the heirs to the legacy of Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899) – the first woman to receive the French Legion of Honor award for her Realist paintings of animals. Others are obviously more focused on giving us a contemporary image rooted in Classical ideas of beauty in the tradition of Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres (1780-1867). Whatever the project, each of these artists engages with the history of their medium, and thereby argues for their place in the canon of art history.

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For images or other information requests, contact Nathan Vonk at 805.730.1460 or nathan@sullivangoss.com

REAL WOMEN will feature local and regional artists in context with national historical figures who made the brave turn away from abstraction, upending the dominant teleological argument about Post War American art history.

Artists included in this exhibition: Niki Byrne, Patricia Chidlaw, Dorothy Churchill-Johnson, Imogen Cunningham (1883-1976), Martha Mayer Erlebacher (1937-2013), DJ Hall, Adonna Khare, Mary-Austin Klein, Laura Krifka, Sarah Lamb, Jordan Marshall, Susan McDonnell, Leslie Lewis Sigler, Susan Savage, Beth Van Hoesen (1926-2010).

To learn more, visit: <http://www.sullivangoss.com/exhibitions/real-women>