

# FROELICK GALLERY

For immediate release:

Solo Exhibit:

Matthew Dennison

*Democracy*

**\*\*May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018\*\***

First Thursday: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 5pm - 8:00pm

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10:30 to 5:30pm

*Exhibit tour and discussion with the artist: Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 11am*



**Matthew Dennison's** 12<sup>th</sup> solo show at Froelick Gallery is titled ***Democracy***. Reflecting his deep ecological and political concerns, Dennison's paintings, highly colorful oil works on mounted paper coated in shiny varnish, present a view of sunny midcentury Americana through a contorted contemporary lens. His scenes are modernist domestic or institutional interiors, placeless urban streets and serene but threatened natural places. Humans- from blithe couples to dazed corporate functionaries- have slight anatomical and sartorial eccentricities that defy their seeming normalcy.

Some are in the company of animals or birds, which are depicted with an awareness absent in these people, heralds of environmental catastrophe.

A portion of this exhibition includes a selection of 100 from a series of 365 small portrait paintings on vintage book covers that Dennison created daily in 2017 as a reaction to each day's news cycle- "each a daily gasp of air", in the artist's words. These are irregularly shaped, brightly hued faces are paired with existing book titles in a poignant and humorous commentary on the times we live in.

Matthew Dennison studied at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, and has been exhibiting throughout the country for over 25 years. His work resides in a vast number of public and private collections, including the Portland Art Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA, and Legacy Emanuel Hospital, Portland, OR.

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