

FROELICK GALLERY For immediate release:

Stephen O'Donnell

Re:Pose - Subverting the Gendered Gaze in the Historical Nude

October 19, 2021 – November 27, 2021

714 NW Davis St, Portland, OR 97209

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11am to 5:30pm

VIRTUAL BROADCAST: November 3, 2021 at 5:30pm via Facebook and YouTube



Stephen O'Donnell's latest exhibition of paintings, titled *Re:Pose - Subverting the Gendered Gaze in the Historical Nude*, sees the artist approaching questions of who gets objectified in art, whose body is held up as beautiful, and who gets to make these judgements, as he upends representations of gender and race through recreated compositions from the Western art historical canon. These include well-known works by a cavalcade of largely – but not exclusively – white, heterosexual male artists: Manet, Ingres, de Lempicka, Gentileschi, Velázquez, Caravaggio, Titian, and

others. In subverting the gaze of these artists, other modes of “looking” are at play – figures stare at themselves in mirrors, supplanting original allegories with luscious displays of self-possession and admiration. Eyes fix knowingly – disarmingly - on the viewer, or are directed upward in reverence, or are cast sidelong at an unseen point outside of the picture.

Both playful and reflective, O'Donnell's models assume the poses and styles of dress – and undress - of the titular historical nudes, while they themselves carry notably contemporary indicators of hairstyle, tattoos, and the like. The artist himself makes cameo appearances, entering larger scenes in intricate gowns as a supporting player, as well as in close-up self-portraits in a trio of small paintings. Painting in exquisite, fine brushstrokes, O'Donnell coyly subverts and pays tribute to revered paintings.

Froelick Gallery exhibits and represents a diverse group of contemporary artists each with strong and independent voices. Many of our artists live in the Pacific Northwest, others live throughout the U.S., and in Tokyo. The gallery's reputation rests on the strength of the artists, the integrity of its employees, and the comfortable, welcoming atmosphere.

Please contact the gallery for reproduction quality images.