



MARK MILROY
STORY PAINTINGS

JANUARY 11 – FEBRUARY 25, 2022



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In *Story Paintings*, Mark Milroy moves fluidly between portraits, still-lives, and landscapes, often combining elements from each into a single composition. Guided by his own personal experiences and physical surroundings, Milroy's subjects range from the everyday to the invented, from corners of his studio to conjured worlds, and from daily acquaintances to fictional cowboys. The artist states: "My goal is to convey some of the very honest moments of humor, oddness, frustration, joy, wonder, and pain that I have felt."

Even when painting from life, Milroy allows his imagination free rein, blurring the lines between truth and fiction, and between immediate experience and distant memory. This balancing act shows itself in the artist's style, a fusion of naturalism and abstraction. Some elements of his paintings are rendered in crisp detail with subtle mark-making, while others use broad swathes of color to capture the essence of a subject or scene, like a memory that has lost specificity with time.

We can see examples of this in the artist's depictions of people. His portrait of *Faran* is formal in its construction, portraying the sitter posed in a chair to be painted and gazing fixedly at the viewer. The rings on her fingers and the intensity of her eyes invite us to believe in her reality. By contrast, the young boys in *Pinafore III* appear not only unrehearsed, but as though plucked directly from the artist's imagination, their facial features smudged as they float in a canoe down a green river below a blazing pink sky. Regardless of what he is painting, Milroy's surfaces are rich and densely layered, and enchant viewers through their vivid palette.

Milroy's stories are not complete narratives; they are entryways. A rhythm forms when moving through his paintings that evokes a feeling of familiarity. We begin to notice patterns and recognizable features, pulling us deeper into the work. Often, a subject will enter from the edge of the canvas, or a distant landscape will repeat itself in more than one painting, forming a connection between his works in the viewer's memory. To experience Milroy's paintings is to partake in a process of looking, remembering, and imagining. A creator of historical fiction, Milroy carves narrative from fact, and sets the foundation for onlookers to continue his stories.

— NANCY MARGOLIS GALLERY

COWBOY UP II

2020

Oil on canvas

62 x 46 inches



MODIGLIANI

2021

Oil on canvas

16 x 12 inches



SMALL AUTUMN LANDSCAPE

2021

Oil on canvas

12 x 12 inches



FARAN

2020

Oil on canvas

42 x 33 inches



FALL

2021

Oil on canvas

48 x 36 inches



BLACK BIRD

2021

Oil on canvas

16 x 16 inches



HOUSE PLANTS

2021

Oil on canvas

16 x 16 inches



CANADA GOOSE

2021

Oil on canvas

12 x 12 inches



PINAFORE III

2020

Oil on canvas

72 x 66 inches



ALLIUM

2021

Oil on linen

12 x 12 inches





People, books, picture postcards, plants and everyday objects like an old pocket knife become props and subject matter in my paintings. I draw upon personal experiences and poignant moments from my life for imagery. My goal is to convey some of the very honest moments of humor, oddness, frustration, joy, wonder, and pain that I have felt. I paint people and places as well as personal experiences and narratives. Everything I choose has meaning to me and to the world that surrounds me. I attempt to make paintings that are poetic and filled with metaphor and meaning.

Sometimes I will make drawings, prints, and multiples of an idea in a variety of materials before I begin a painting. I work in oil on canvas and mostly in direct observation of the subject unless I am working from my imagination or memory. There are other times where I will work my idea out directly on the canvas, and through this process I attempt to find the image, acting as both image maker and image seeker.

— MARK MILROY

EDUCATION

- 2018 M.F.A. Painting, New York Studio School, New York, NY
1994 B.F.A. Painting, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
1993 University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Story Paintings*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, Online Viewing Room
2020 Positions Berlin Art Fair, September 10–13
2019 *Mark Milroy: People & Plants*, The Mandrake Fine Art & Botanica, Las Cruces, NM
Art Salon: Presented by Nicho Lowry, 15 Gramercy Park, New York, NY
I Do Not Understand, The Shop at Duckie Brown, New York, NY
Trees, Hills, Sky, City Roots Realty, Brooklyn, NY
2018 *Non-Fiction Paintings*, New York Studio School, New York, NY
2015 *Works From Moody Road*, Kerri Gallery, Willimantic, CT
2014 *Kiesendahl + Calhoun Contemporary Art*, The Lodge at Woodloch, Hawley, PA
2013 *Mark Milroy: Subjects*, Wilbur & Moeller Project Space, New York, NY
2012 *Portraits*, GGA, Maude Alley, Honesdale, PA
2011 *A Decade of Drawing*, The National Arts Club, New York, NY
2010 *Landscapes, Portraits*, Kirkland Gallery, New York, NY
2009 *Hampton Beaches*, The Gallery Sag Harbor, Sag Harbor, NY
Landscapes Lost and Found, St. Thomas Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario
2004 *Gatineau Landscape*, The Green Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2003 *The City Landscape*, The Green Gallery NYC, New York, NY
2002 *New Work*, Ferrell Pollack Fine Art, Brooklyn, NY
Feet, Phones & Figures, Wooster Projects, New York, NY
2001 *Paintings & Drawings*, National Arts Club, Marquis & Gregg Galleries, New York, NY
1997 San Lorenzo Fine Art, New York, NY

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Mercedes Matter Award Exhibition*, 122 Grand Street, New York, NY
Alone in This Together, Mary De Vincentis & Guest Artist, M. David & Co., Brooklyn, NY
Defied Logic, Ivy Brown Gallery, Curated by Nina M. Divani, New York, NY
2020 *12th National Juried Exhibition*, Prince Street Gallery, Juror: Susan Lichtman (online)
Spring to Action, Benefit exhibition to support *Feed the Front Lines*, Covid 19, Monika King Contemporary
Contemporary Portraiture, Redefining the Figure, Visionary Art Collective (online), curated by Erika Hess
2019 *Solace House Holiday Exhibition*, M. David & Co., Brooklyn, NY
Up With People, Joyce Goldstein Gallery, Curated by Patrick Neal, Chatham, NY
Couplings, Salt Fine Art, Laguna Beach, CA
Blue Mountain Gallery Winter Juried Exhibition, Curated by Elisa Jenson, New York, NY
11th National Juried Exhibition, Prince Street Gallery, Juror: Lori Bookstein, New York, NY
New Narrative Now, M. David & Co., Brooklyn, NY
2017 *From Summer*, New York Studio School, New York, NY
Material Matters, presented by JMN Arts, Peninsula Art Space, Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY
2016 *Sideshow Nation IV Thru the Rabbit Hole*, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Small Works Baruch Collage, Mishkin Gallery, New York, NY
2015 *Lost Cat: Art in the Age of Social Media*, Cape Cod Museum of Art, Cape Cod, MA
Second Annual Summer Invitational, Life On Mars Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Sideshow Nation III Circle the Wagons, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2014 *Crowd, Green Door*, Curated by Andrea Brown & Elizabeth Ennis, Liberty, NY
Sideshow Nation II at the Alamo, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2013 *EAM Exhibition*, The National Arts Club, Hope & Grace Award for Portraiture, New York, NY
2007 *Block Party II*, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2006 *Block Party*, 14Townhouses Project, Curated by Elisabeth Ackerman, Brooklyn, NY
2004 *Paint*, Signal 66, Washington, DC
Merry-Peace, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Poignant, A Space Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2003 Green Gallery, New York, NY

2001 NURTUREart Reaches the Heights, NY Presbyterian Baldwin Gallery, New York, NY

1999 Brickhaus Art Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Drawings, N3 Project Space, Brooklyn, NY

1998 Simon/Schade Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
N3 Project Space, Brooklyn, NY
Right Bank Gallery, by NURTUREart, Brooklyn, NY

1997 La MaMa La Galleria, New York, NY
Vision 21, Curated by Leeza Ahmedy, Brooklyn, NY

1995 Green Room, MTV National Studios, New York, NY

1994 New Talent 1, Contemporary Art Workshop, Chicago, IL
B.F.A. Graduating Exhibition, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
The Figure, Gallery X, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

1993 555, London Art and Historical Museum, London, Ontario
16 Artist Big Picture, Richmond Row, London, Ontario
The Environment, Hillary Gallery, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

GRANTS, AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2018 The Royal Drawing School, Dumfries House, Ayer, Scotland

2016 Peter S. Reed Foundation

2013 Hope & Grace Award for Portraiture, The National Arts Club

PUBLICATIONS

2021 Deborah Frixxell, *White Hot Magazine*, “Defied Logic at Ivy Brown Gallery”

2020 Erika Hess, *I like your work* (podcast), “Painter Mark Milroy: Stories of Discovery, Overcoming Failure & the Psychology of Portrait Painting,” catalogue, 27 pages + 8 images
Warm Milk Creative Vol. 1 Art and Poetry

Mark Milroy, *I Do Not Understand*, chapbook, Ink, inc.

Erika Hess, *I like your work* (podcast), “Painter Mark Milroy: Stories of Discovery, Overcoming Failure & the Psychology of Portrait Painting,” interview

2019 Sharilyn Neidhardt, *Art Spiel*, “New Narrative Now at M. David & Co. Curated by Michael David and Martin Dull”

2015 Douglas Crase, *Tether 1*, “Mark Milroy Paints my Portrait”

2014 *The East Hampton Press & The Southampton Press*, “Living with Art in Water Mill,” June 26

2012 *Domino*, Fall/Winter Special Edition, “Best Rooms: Nickey Kehoe”
Vogue Living, “The Bourne Identity,” September–October

2011 Marion Wolberg Weiss, *Dan’s Papers*, “Honoring the Artist,” Vol. 2, Issue 49, March 11

2010 Julia Morton, *City Arts*, “Mark Milroy: Portraits and Landscapes,” Vol. 2, Issue 7, April 6
Architectural Digest Spain, “Las Casas Mas Bellas Del Mundo,” N 50, September

2009 James Todd, *Elgin Weekly News*, “An artist comes home with Landscapes Lost & Found,” September 22
Pat Rogers, *The East Hampton Press & The Southampton Press*, “Painter Mark Milroy seeks to channel the strength of the Ocean,” June 2
Elise D’Haen, *The East Hampton Star*, “The Art Scene,” March 26
Amanda Talbot & James Merrell, *Elle Decoration UK*, “Fresh & Wild,” artwork, May

2008 Carol Kino, *Domino*, “Modern Portraiture,” November

2005 Kelly McMasters, *The New York Times Sunday Styles*, “Sometimes a Model Girlfriend Shouldn’t,” January 9

2004 Jessica Dawson, *The Washington Post*, “Signal 66: Painted Into A Corner,” October 21
Jesse Peterson, *Greenpoint-Williamsburg Gazette*, “Mark Milroy: Expressive Realist,” February 17

2003 *New York Arts Magazine*, “Profile: Mark Milroy,” February
Columbia: A Journal of Literature & Art, artwork
Italian Marie Claire, “Studio,” February

2002 *The New York Sun*, “Dialing With Paintbrush,” June 24

2001 Quinn Latimer, *The Like: Premiere Issue*, “Rules of the Game”
New York Metropolis, “Brooklyn Sunset #1,” cover artwork, October 18
Jason Sheftell, *New York Metropolis*, “Regular Joe Painter,” October 11
Tokion Magazine, The Star Issue No. 21, “Almost Famous,” January–February

2000 *The New Yorker*, “Absolut McGarry Morris,” advertisement artwork, May 22



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