

MONYA ROWE GALLERY

34 Orchard Street, Ground Floor
New York, NY 10002
212 255 5065

For Immediate Release

ANGELA DUFRESNE

Let's Stay Together

September 7 – November 2, 2014

Opening reception: Sunday, September 7, 6 - 8 PM

"Anyone could fall in love with anyone, under the right circumstances. Maybe it was the survival instinct.... People wanted to continue themselves, protect themselves, get pleasure. People wanted pleasure all the time, anytime, any place, they'd do anything to get it. Everyone was capable of the most hideous behavior and crimes to get it. The pursuit of pleasure wasn't pretty. It made people cruel during tender moments. If they weren't getting what they wanted, they could kill as easily as kiss."
- Lynne Tillman, *No Lease on Life*

Angela Dufresne has been painting joyously perverse pictures for years now, in which anyone could fall in love with anyone, be it woman, pig, horse, deer, dog. In scenes that emerge from smears, skeins, spurts, and 'splings of color, people are on their way to a good time, and so long farewell to any square that gets in their way. The setting is pastoral, a let-it-all-hang-out Eden, riffing on classical (male) masters such as Bierstadt and Courbet, two of Dufresne's favorites. But here it's another c(oun)try entirely, a queer domestic idyll where women (and the occasional pin-up man) hunt, frolic, fly-fish, heavy-pet, and every once in a while cut off a dude's head. The funny thing about these, though, is that even when a scene has murderous under-currents, it's with a celebratory consensuality. Blood is a body fluid that spurts and seeps like paint. So you lost your head: here's a platter.

Dufresne's paintings are performances of virtuosic brushwork that render a scene just-enough while also threatening to blow it all to pieces. Figures emerge and recede in whorls and blasts of juicy pigment. The paintings change the more you look at them, solidifying and dissipating, revealing details at first unseen. Delicious probably poisonous colors mix with rich earth tones to create an apocalyptic expressionism.

Dufresne often does talk about the end times like it's something to look forward to. If it's an inevitability, might as well prepare a feast. I think she squealed with glee in the movie theater when that planet Melancholia crashed into Lars Von Trier's Earth. Fantasies about world endings are of course visions of new beginnings. In Dufresne's world, human characters collide with animal features, genders mix and match—new hybrids repopulate a dead world (Painting?) that is dripping with feral color. It's a grotesque world, larger than any life we know, but it's never obscene. Pleasure takes center stage. It may be at times cruel but it also looks like the best party out-of-town.

- Geoff Chadsey, 2014, New York

Angela Dufresne received a MFA from *Tyler School of Art*, Philadelphia, PA and a BFA from *Kansas City Art Institute*, MO. Dufresne's work has been included in group exhibitions at *American Academy of Arts and Letters*, NY; *Ogunquit Museum of American Art*, ME; *The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum*, CT, *MOMA/PS1 Contemporary Art Center*, NY, and *The Rose Art Museum of Brandeis University*, MA, among others. Her work has also been the subject of a solo exhibition at *The Hammer Museum*, Los Angeles, CA. In December 2014 Dufresne will exhibit in a two-person exhibition with Magalie Guerin at Michelle Grabner and Brad Killam's, *The Suburban*, in Chicago, IL. Dufresne lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Geoff Chadsey received a MFA from *the California College of the Arts*, San Francisco, CA and an AB from *Harvard University*, Cambridge, MA. His drawings have been exhibited internationally, most recently at the *Galerie Im Taxispalais*, Innsbruck, Austria and the *Ursula Blickle Foundation*, Stuttgart, Germany. Chadsey lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Gallery hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11 - 6 PM

Subway: F to East Broadway, B/D to Grand Street, J/M/Z to Delancey/Essex

Upcoming: Group show, curated by **Paul Schrader**

Image: **Angela Dufresne**, *Mother, Son and Foal*, 2014, oil on canvas, 60 by 40 inches



For more information or images please contact the gallery at 212 255 5065 or info@monyarowegallery.com

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