

MONYA ROWE GALLERY

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For Immediate Release

BRYAN ROGERS

Woodland

October 27 – December 17, 2022

Opening reception: Thursday, October 27, 6-8 PM

Monya Rowe Gallery is excited to announce a solo exhibition of new paintings by **Bryan Rogers** titled *Woodland*. The exhibition will open to the public on Thursday, October 27 at noon. The opening reception for the artist will take place on Thursday, October 27, 6-8 PM.

Just before the pandemic, I moved to South Orange, NJ. I loved the architecture and history, especially the post office and its' WPA-commissioned mural [The Works Progress Administration was created by President Roosevelt in 1935, during one of the bleakest years of the Great Depression]. The mural's painter was Bernard Perlin. Perlin's tableaux was an idealized, symbolic slice of life of the local community. I was inspired by the mural's formal qualities, as well as the paradoxical tension and placidity of the men depicted. I wanted to do my own take on figure and landscape painting, and used Perlin's mural as a scaffold of an idea to build my own world.

Being queer is intrinsic to my relationship to the world, how I interact with other people, and the work I make. My figures are an amalgam of middle-aged queer men with whom I'm most familiar/familial: myself, my brother, and my partner. The men in my paintings are nude. Their nudity returns them to an animalistic state. They are not predators — I think of them as like deer moving through the woods or goldfish in an aquarium. They don't think about how silly and vulnerable they might be, and they remain this way as long as they keep to their enclosures.

- Bryan Rogers, New Jersey, 2022

Bryan Rogers (b. 1977, Waterbury, CT) received an MFA from *Pratt Institute*, New York, NY and a BFA from *Appalachian State University*, Boone, NC. Recent group exhibitions include *Taymour Grahne*, London; *Richard Heller Gallery*, LA; and *Monya Rowe Gallery*, NY. This is Rogers' first solo exhibition at *Monya Rowe Gallery*. The artist lives and works in South Orange, NJ.

Gallery hours

Tuesday – Saturday 12 - 6 PM

Closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from November 22 - 26.