

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2020

Inman Gallery is pleased to present:

Angela Fraleigh

*Our world swells like dawn,
when the sun licks the water*

September 12 – October 31, 2020

Exhibition open by appointment:
Tues. – Sat., 11 – 6

Inman Gallery is pleased to present two concurrent exhibitions to celebrate the gallery's 30th anniversary. *Our world swells like dawn, when the sun licks the water*, by **Angela Fraleigh**, and **IN PIECES ON FIRE** by **Robyn O'Neil**. The exhibitions present new bodies of work by each artist. Opening Saturday, September 12, they will continue by appointment through Saturday, October 31, 2020. In lieu of a public opening, there will be public programs via Zoom scheduled throughout the run of the exhibitions.



Angela Fraleigh, *Fold in the sun*, 2019
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 90 x 66 in (228.6 x 167.6 cm)

Angela Fraleigh's lush and complex works mine the history of academic and avant-garde painting, often created as site specific projects to recontextualize the unique collections of public institutions. *Our world swells...* consists of five large immersive canvases from two bodies of work. Three of the works were part of Fraleigh's recent solo exhibition commissioned by the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington, Delaware. *Sound the Deep Waters* responded to the institution's strong holdings of Pre-Raphaelite paintings and American illustration using the lens of historical narrative art to explore contemporary issues of gender and identity.

She describes the exhibition as being: "...part of a longtime project that asks, *What if the female characters we've come to know from art history—the lounging odalisques, the chorus that whispers in the background—present more than a voyeuristic visual feast? What if these characters embody a flickering of female power at work? Can we see these 'passive characters as subversive and powerful? And if we do, how might it affect women today and of the future?*"

These ideas are carried forward in her newest body of work, from which two paintings are on view for the first time, and created on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of a woman's right to vote. While conducting research for the Delaware Art Museum exhibition, Fraleigh came across several first edition feminist texts from the 18th and 19th centuries with unique marbled endpapers, and some with unexpected provenances. She points to one book in particular as a

source of inspiration: a copy of the "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" by Mary Wollstonecraft, which featured a gift inscription to "Mrs Horace Brock with Dr Henry Biddle's respects and best wishes, January 1915". Mrs. Brock, was the President of the Pennsylvania Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage and Dr. Henry Biddle, a known suffrage supporter.

Fraleigh states, "I love that this gorgeous marbled cover, from a male suffrage supporter to a female anti-suffragist, came to represent something uniquely different to both of them, and that something so benign as a marbled cover could come to be a stand in for a revolutionary subversive text."



Angela Fraleigh
Take root among the stars, 2020
Oil and acrylic on paper adhered to canvas over foam
core on aluminum stretchers
90 x 66 in (228.6 x 167.6 cm)

In Fraleigh's two newest paintings, figures emerge from a similarly hand-marbled background, but at a massive scale of 5.5 x 7.5ft. For example, in *Take root among the stars*, a work whose title references Octavia Butler's novel *Parable of the Sower*, three black women loom large, emerging from the marbled paper and communing as the mythological goddesses *The Fates*. In both paintings, Fraleigh presents her women as archetypal, powerful figures who share and hold knowledge. The title of Fraleigh's second work, *With ready eyes*, references transcendentalist author Margaret Fuller, whose book *Woman in the 19th Century* is thought to have inspired the women's suffrage movement. In Fraleigh's composition, we see two female figures listen intently to a third figure reading aloud. Perhaps they are scheming with seditious intent or telling the tale of the hallucinatory feminist utopia that unfolds in the main gallery.

Angela Fraleigh earned her MFA from Yale University School of Art and her BFA from Boston University. Her solo exhibitions include PPOW Gallery in New York, Inman Gallery in Houston and Peters Projects in Santa Fe. She has exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and has been the recipient of several awards and residencies including the Yale University Alice Kimball English grant, The Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program Brooklyn, NY and the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha, NE among others.

Fraleigh has created site-specific solo projects for the Edward Hopper House Museum, the Vanderbilt Mansion Museum, the Everson Museum of Art and the Delaware Art Museum. Fraleigh looks forward to exhibitions at the Weatherspoon Art Museum, Hirschl & Adler Gallery, and the Montclair Art Museum. She currently lives in Allentown, PA, where she is Full Professor and Department Chair at Moravian College.

For more information or press images, please contact the gallery at 713-526-7800, or email kerry@inmangallery.com.