

# MARK MILROY

STORY PAINTINGS

JANUARY 11 – FEBRUARY 25, 2022



n Story Paintings, Mark Milroy moves fluidly between portraits, still-lifes, 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

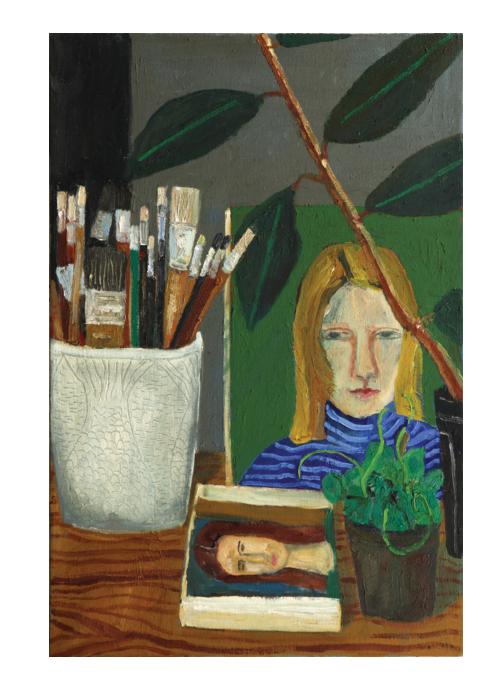


#### COWBOY UP II

2020

Oil on canvas

62 x 46 inches



#### MODIGLIANI

2021

Oil on canvas



#### SMALL AUTUMN LANDSCAPE

2021

Oil on canvas



#### FARAN

2020

Oil on canvas

42 x 33 inches



## FALL

2021

Oil on canvas

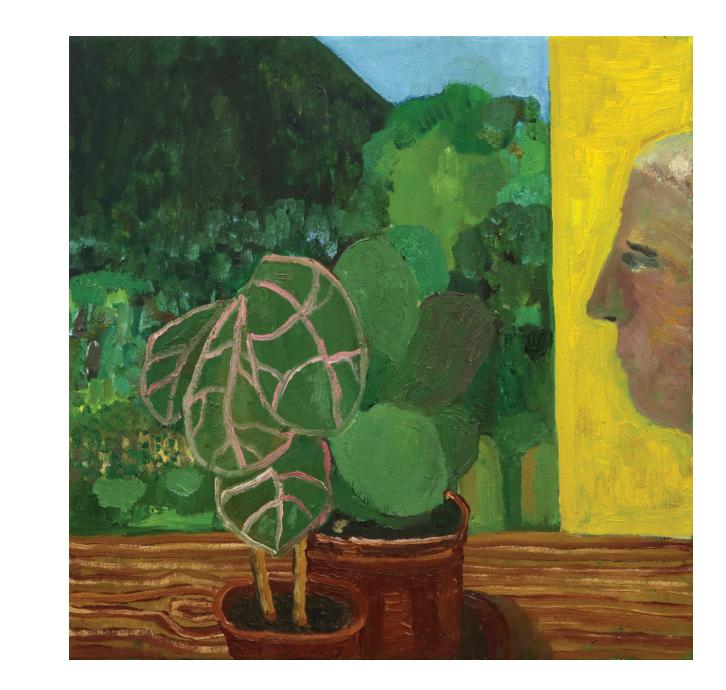
48 x 36 inches



# BLACK BIRD

2021

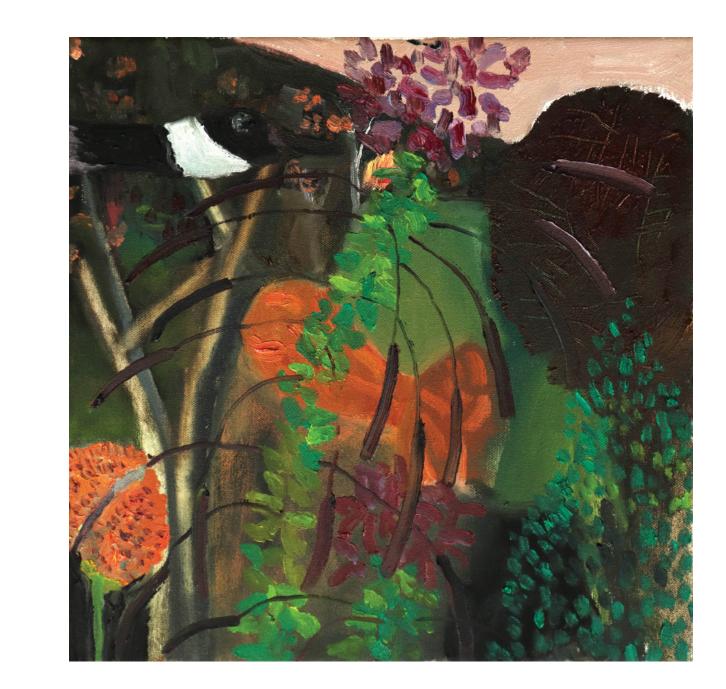
Oil on canvas



### HOUSE PLANTS

2021

Oil on canvas



#### CANADA GOOSE

2021

Oil on canvas



#### PINAFORE III

2020

Oil on canvas

72 x 66 inches



# ALLIUM

2021

Oil on linen



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	${\sf B.F.A.\ Painting,\ School\ of\ the\ Art\ Institute\ of\ Chicago,\ Chicago,\ IL}$
1993	University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

#### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

Story Paintings, Nancy Margolis Gallery, Online Viewing Room
Positions Berlin Art Fair, September 10–13
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
Non-Fiction Paintings, New York Studio School, New York, NY
Works From Moody Road, Kerri Gallery, Willimantic, CT
Kiesendahl + Calhoun Contemporary Art, The Lodge at Woodloch, Hawley, PA
Mark Milroy: Subjects, Wilbur & Moeller Project Space, New York, NY
Portraits, GGA, Maude Alley, Honesdale, PA
A Decade of Drawing, The National Arts Club, New York, NY
Landscapes, Portraits, Kirkland Gallery, New York, NY
Hampton Beaches, The Gallery Sag Harbor, Sag Harbor, NY
Landscapes Lost and Found, St. Thomas Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario
Gatineau Landscape, The Green Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
The City Landscape, The Green Gallery NYC, New York, NY
New Work, Ferrell Pollack Fine Art, Brooklyn, NY
Feet, Phones & Figures, Wooster Projects, New York, NY
Paintings & Drawings, National Arts Club, Marquis & Gregg Galleries, New York, NY
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

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

2016

2013

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

Hope & Grace Award for Portraiture, The National Arts Club

	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, <i>Domino</i> , "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





Catalogue © 2022 NANCY MARGOLIS GALLERY of NEW YORK, Inc.

Designed by Lilian Day Thorpe.

Courtesy of Nancy Margolis Gallery of New York, Inc. and Mark Milroy. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reprinted, reproduced, or transmitted in any form or by any other means, electronic or mechanical now known or hereafter invented, without written permission of publisher.

www.nancymargolisgallery.com margolis@nancymargolisgallery.com

