

For Immediate Release

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Lillian Warren

They Woke Up and Started Dreaming

May 19 – June 23, 2018

Saturday, May 19, 6:00 – 8:30 pm: Opening Reception

Saturday, May 26, 2:00 pm: Artist conversation with Nancy Wozny & Clint Willour

My protagonists are ordinary...rather than super-heroes or anti-heroes. Each painting is a glimpse into a mundane, ridiculous or poignant story where we have missed the opening scenes and are left to invent our own narrative.

-Lillian Warren

Anya Tish Gallery is pleased to announce *They Woke Up and Started Dreaming*, a solo-exhibition of Houston-based painter Lillian Warren. In her newest body of work, Warren constructs abrupt narratives in colorful, anxiety-driven and relatable character studies.

Representing an antithesis to her previous series *Wait-scapes*, Warren's newest series features characters who interact energetically with their surroundings and with each other rather than being isolated and disconnected. Composed in both traditional and graphic novel formats, the series displays a range of exaggerated human movements and facial expressions frozen in time, consuming the works with a sense of anticipation and anxiety. As a personal nod to her locale, Warren incorporates familiar faces from the Houston art scene. The viewer is left to wonder as to the circumstances of each situation and feels a "familiar yet unexplained" connection to each character.

Warren's working process combines photography, illustration and her own painting technique. Acting as a director of sorts, Warren takes over one thousand photographs of several individuals amid improvisational interactions. She then begins to draft her compositions, piecing together different individuals and often repeating the same subject in different positions within the receding horizon line. A slippery fluid acrylic is then applied to Mylar which, having a penchant to pool, creates visible forms but tends to abstract the figures.

Lillian Warren received her BFA in studio art from the University of Tennessee, completed graduate courses in Art History from the University of Toulouse (France) and later received an MBA from the University of Tennessee. Warren's artwork has been included in many group and solo exhibitions across the United States in venues such as: Galveston Arts Center, Galveston, TX; Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL; Blue Star Art Space, San Antonio, TX and the Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, NM. The artist has also received accolades from juried exhibitions such as the Biennial Southwest, the Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, New Mexico, ArtFutura, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois, and The Big Show, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, Texas. In 2006, Warren received an Individual Artist Grant Fellowship from the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and Harris County along with the Creative Capital Award in 2003 from DiverseWorks Professional Development Workshop, Houston, Texas. Warren's most recent project involved her own multiple projection video-imagery in conjunction with a live performance by choreographer Annie Arnoult at the Aurora Picture Show, Houston, Texas, 2017.