

For Immediate Release

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Lillian Warren : *Parables and Everyday Stories*

"I love painting people, everyday people engaged in day-to-day concerns and activities. This "mundane" hides, or sometimes highlights, dislocation and uncertainty, mystery and absurdity.

My 'waitscapes' featured groups of people receding into empty space, often fiddling with some electronic gadget, isolated from each other, waiting endlessly for something that they might not recognize when they see it. The figures recede into an ambiguous space, waiting, all in a self-imposed limbo.

In my current paintings, I embed these everyday people into a setting that draws inspiration from medieval manuscripts. These ancient documents were replete with intricate patterns, abstracted figures and fanciful beast, freely mixing the sacred and the absurd. The people portrayed were kings, saints, and mythological heroes. The stories were already known to the reader, and deeply symbolic to the culture that produced them. In my contemporary adaption, the characters are everyday people, and the stories are imagined parables and myths relating to our current culture, but with the symbolic import, in all its mystery and absurdity, left to the viewer."

- Lillian Warren, 2020

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. The resulting scenes, in which characters interact with one another in undefined spaces, are pregnant with tension. 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. The narratives are left ambiguous, allowing the viewer further participation in imagining their own ending.

Houston based artist Lillian Warren received her BFA in studio art from the University of Tennessee, completed graduate courses in ArtHistory from the University of Toulouse, France and later received an MBA from the University of Tennessee. Warren's artwork has been included in numerous 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 and The Assistance League of Houston, Houston, TX. 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 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 and composer Chris Becker at the Aurora Picture Show, Houston, Texas, 2019.