

REYNOLDS GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Reynolds Gallery announces a group exhibition *Surroundings*, featuring seven artists

The exhibition opens Friday, January 8 from 10 am – 5 pm



Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of *Surroundings*, a group exhibition based on the scenes that encompass us, both in nature and at home. The seven exhibiting, nationally-renowned artists include Samuel Bjorklund, Nancy Blum, Andrea Donnelly, Daniel Heidkamp, Alex Katz, Sally Mann, and Nicole Wittenberg. The exhibition opens on Friday, January 8 with an all-day reception from 10 am – 5 pm and continues through February 20, 2021

Surroundings presents artists leading major art movements: Abstract Expressionism, Contemporary Art and Photography, and Textile Art. The show demonstrates a range of media, including etching, collage, silkscreen, oil, acrylic, and thread. These individually distinct works are linked by their subject: the land and the scenes closest to the artist, whether that be physically or metaphorically. Whether representational or highly abstracted, each piece breathes new life into daily scenes; novel color and space relationships emerge as Daniel Heidkamp's blocky

landscapes hang alongside Sally Mann's commanding, mysterious photograph, and Andrea Donnelly's handwoven, text-based compositions.

Samuel Bjorklund paints expressive landscapes and studies which capture the spirit within his surroundings. Bjorklund grew up in California and later travelled around the world, living in Aix-en-Provence, Paris, and the Dominican Republic. His travels instill dimension into his free-flowing, somewhat minimal strokes as he incorporates varied cultures' colors and themes in his paintings. He draws from Asian influences, as well as "early archaic Egyptian and Christian works, the caves of Lascaux, Romanesque sculpture, [and] the paintings of Pompeii." The subtle overlapping of these styles build a powerful, poignant experience within Bjorklund's airy, often floating, forms. He states, "My work has always been based on a visual experience of nature and respect for the common thread running through the centuries of Art, preferring to find the elements from the tradition of art which unify rather than separate." Bjorklund was born in Sheridan, Wyoming in 1938 and grew up in southern California, where he received his BA in Comparative Literature and MFA in Graphic Art from the University of Southern California. He co-founded the Marchutz School of Vision in 1972 (now the Marchutz School of Fine Art), where he taught until 1984. He was awarded the Oskar Kokoshcka City of Salzburg Prize in 1961 and was honored with Lifetime Achievement in the Arts by the Institute for American Universities in Aix-en-Provence in 2017.

Fabricating wildly detailed botanical drawings, **Nancy Blum** confines nature's endless energy into layers of colored pencil and paint. In *Surroundings*, Blum presents her first series of silkscreen prints with hand-colored gouache. The prints capture the image of one specific flower with elaborate detail and fluid, monochrome backgrounds. Blum notes "I use botanical motifs to create images that are

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universally associated with growth and continuity. My deeper intent is to conjure the ‘flower’ as an active, forceful agent, subverting a culturally conditioned point of view that often deems the ephemeral and the organic as less powerful and of limited value. My ‘wonderland’ presents a view of life that pulses with expansive fecundity; hopefully, it also propels comprehension of the connectedness of all beings within the limitless energy operating throughout this world.” She received her MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art (1991) and currently lives in Brooklyn, NY. She has exhibited at the Weatherspoon Art Museum, UNC Greensboro, NC; Shore Institute of Contemporary Art, Long Branch, NJ; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, AZ; The International Print Center, Ricco Maresca Gallery, and the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, all, NY.

Andrea Donnelly exhibits a recent textile entitled *Mirrored Anna #1, Adiantum assimile* based on the cyanotypes of Anna Atkins, an English botanist and photographer. Donnelly creates each piece using her own loom, weaving hand-dyed fabric into intricate, poetic compositions. Donnelly states, “Cloth is a powerful conduit for the subtleties of our human experience. I make cloths with great presence and great vulnerability, investigating psychological and literal relationships between our physical bodies and the world we inhabit through the act of weaving by hand. The intricate and time-consuming processes used to transform thread to cloth are the conceptual backbone of my work. I touch every inch of thread in the woven-painting-object-artifacts I create, imbedding imagery and forming figures locked within textile structure. I paint woven cloth, only to take it apart then weave it again. Through unraveling and rebuilding this visual language I excavate deeper meanings in the collaboration of tool, material, and intention.” She received her Bachelor of Arts and Design and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from North Carolina State University in 2006, and later earned a Master of Fine Arts in Fibers from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2010. Her work is in the collections of the North Carolina Museum of Art, Capital One Corporate Collection and Federal Reserve Bank, both in Richmond, VA. She lives and works in Richmond, VA.

Daniel Heidkamp creates prints through a multistep process, based on his paper pulp paintings, in which he stencils and layers to form varied planes. His collaged prints depict coastal scenes of Massachusetts and cityscapes in New York, reimagining each view with blocky shapes and matte hues. Heidkamp was born in Wakefield, MA (1980) and currently lives and works in Brooklyn. He received his BFA from School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA (2003) and has exhibited at White Columns Gallery, Half Gallery, Pace Prints, all, New York, NY; Wilkinson Gallery, London; and LOYAL Gallery, Stockholm.

Capturing landscapes, plant life, and high fashion models, **Alex Katz** has mastered myriad subjects by creating collage-like paintings and prints. Much of his work stems from careful life observation, which we see in two exhibition prints, *Sunset 1* and *Sunset 2*. He captures the coolness of dimming daylight through bold marks of black trees contrasting subtle blue sky hues. Graphic and serene, both etchings portray nature with an unparalleled freshness. Alex Katz is one of the most well-recognized contemporary artists, having shown in nearly 500 group exhibitions and 200 solo shows, including retrospectives at the Whitney Museum and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. At the age of 92 and living in NY, the prolific artist continues to show and make new work.

Sally Mann’s importance as a photographer, contemporary artist, and Southern cultural icon cannot be overstated. She has been a pioneer in the national and international contemporary art scene, fiercely producing art that challenges the role of photography in contemporary art. She composes reflective, eerie images by relying on antique film processes. Her work ties back to her life in the South, photographing scenes of Virginia, Georgia, and Mississippi with an intensely poetic, nuanced touch. Mann was born in Lexington, Virginia in 1951 and earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Writing from Hollins College (1974, 1975). She has exhibited all over the world; most recently, her work

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was the subject of an internationally exhibition *A Thousand Crossings*, which included the following venues: Peabody Essex Museum, The J. Paul Getty Museum, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Jeu de Paume, Paris, and the High Museum of Art. She has been awarded a National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, Guggenheim Foundation grants, and additional significant recognitions. She is represented by Gagosian Gallery, New York and currently resides in Virginia.

Nicole Wittenberg is primarily known as a figurative painter, awarded the American Academy of Arts and Letters' John Koch Award for best young figurative painter in 2012. However, in *Surroundings*, she presents a recent series of pastel drawings and one painting which detail scenes of Maine. The New York-based artist spends a lot of time in Maine, where she paints alongside former residents Fairfield Porter and Lois Dodd, and even acts as a muse for Alex Katz. Influenced by the light and landscape of the east coast, Wittenberg captures picturesque scenes with energetic strokes and color. Wittenberg is a well-established artist who has exhibited nationally and internationally; most recently, she was included in a group exhibition at Skarstedt Gallery in New York, curated by David Salle. Her work is held in the collections of the Aishti Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon; The Albertina, Vienna, Austria; Boston Museum of Fine Art; High Museum of Art, Georgia; Portland Museum of Art; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

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