



HIRSCHL & ADLER MODERN

For Immediate Release

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## David Ligare *Still Life*

**September 12 – October 13, 2018**

For over forty years, David Ligare has been making paintings that conceptually link ancient Greek philosophy to contemporary social needs. Through established painting tropes like the figure and the landscape, Ligare has been embedding tenets of Plato and Aristotle within deftly painted scenes allegorizing social issues such as literacy and homelessness. With *Still Life*, the artist continues his thesis by giving new meaning and a new history to that eponymous genre. Hirschl & Adler Modern is honored to present these 16 recent paintings by David Ligare, in his third solo exhibition with the gallery.

Central to the paintings in *Still Life* is the late afternoon sunlight, whose clarity essentializes the objects on display to create moments of profound stillness. Consider the calm of *Still Life with Figs, Pomegranate, and Rose*, in which every object falls into place as if they only exist, or will ever exist, in that exact location. That ease of ontology is supported by a major theme of Ligare's work, balance. Outside of the philosophical meaning of the word, a balanced composition is also the artist's true aim. This is evident in works like *Still Life with Lemons and Pot* where Ligare slyly lifts the tablecloth to avoid the composition from toppling over, or in *Still Life with Apricots, Wheat and Poppies (Offering)* with wheat and flowers precariously balanced on the basket of fruit. As stillness and balance give each object its reason to be, it is that late-day sun which bathes everything in a unifying light. Each flower, fruit and pot take center stage in brilliant half-light while their long shadows merge; a visual metaphor for the interconnectedness of all things. The artist writes, "Light, most particularly sunlight, has occupied my eye, mind, and hand throughout my entire career. There is an essential truth to sunlight, perhaps *the* central truth."

The choice of still life as subject matter is hardly trivial. No genre is perhaps better suited for Ligare's use of allegory and symbolism. Deceptively simple, these paintings are laden with meaning and reference. Each is a push in the artist's lifelong call for a renewed passion for knowledge, a message which feels timelier each day. In the complex world we presently find ourselves, advocacy for Stillness, Balance and Truth represents a clear way forward.

David Ligare (born 1945, Oak Park, IL) studied at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA. He has shown his paintings in many solo exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, London, Rome, San Francisco, Seattle and elsewhere. His work can be found in numerous permanent collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco; the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT; the Frye Art Museum, Seattle; and the Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy. The artist's recent retrospective, *David Ligare: California Classicist*, traveled from the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA to the Laguna Art Museum, Laguna, CA; Georgia Art Museum, Athens, GA; and Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA. This exhibition was accompanied by a major monograph on the artist. Ligare lives and works in the Carmel Valley, CA.

**David Ligare *Still Life*** opens at Hirschl & Adler Modern on Wednesday, September 12 and runs through Saturday, October 13, 2018. Located on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Fuller Building, at the corner of 57th Street and Madison Avenue, Hirschl & Adler Modern is open Monday through Friday, from 9:30 am to 4:45 pm. Beginning September 25, the gallery will move to its regular gallery hours of Tuesday through Friday, from 9:30 am to 5:15 pm, and Saturday, from 9:30 am to 4:45 pm.

For additional information or images, contact Shelley Farmer, Director, or Ted Holland, Exhibition Coordinator, at 212-535-8810 (phone) / 212-772-7237 (fax), or by email at [shelleyf@HirschlAndAdler.com](mailto:shelleyf@HirschlAndAdler.com) or [tedh@HirschlAndAdler.com](mailto:tedh@HirschlAndAdler.com). Please visit our website at [www.HirschlAndAdler.com](http://www.HirschlAndAdler.com) for an online preview of the exhibition.