



HIRSCHL & ADLER MODERN

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Shelley Farmer, Director (shelleyf@HirschlAndAdler.com) or
Ted Holland, Exhibition Coordinator (tedh@HirschlAndAdler.com)
Tel: 212-535-8810 / Fax: 212-772-7237

Angela Fraleigh
Fluttering still

February 10 – March 12, 2021

Is it discomfort, or excitement, that you feel when you watch these women languidly roust, or subtly drift asleep? Do you happily play the voyeur, seduced by their beauty and the opulence of their surroundings? Do you feel that nagging tug from your mind that you are being watched, as well? Angela Fraleigh has spent her career exploring narrative art's hierarchical patterns. Keenly observing how images and roles from Western art history intersect with contemporary representation and attitudes, Fraleigh uncovers why certain tropes remain relevant, who they benefit, and how.

Hirschl & Adler Modern is proud to present *Fluttering still*, the artist's debut solo exhibition with the gallery. In these ten new paintings, Fraleigh depicts women in liminal states between wakefulness and sleep to perfectly encapsulate today's social and political dynamics. The women in *Fluttering still* are not here to satisfy any outdated notion of their role nor the viewer's predatory desire. Fraleigh has awoken them within a new context, wherein their agency exists for their own, and each other's, sake. In rearranging the images of the past, the artist changes how we see ourselves in the present.

Fraleigh, deftly and subtly, empowers her subjects through a variety of strategies. Removing the original art historical context from these figures removes any "traditional" value-based judgments of femininity. In the void, Fraleigh injects additional conceptual layers. In *Shaking to sound the silent skies* and *A pang of livid light*, the swirling, abstract patterning surrounding the figures comes from the fin de siècle illustrations rendered by Gerda Wegener and Ethel Reed, two female design pioneers who upended the social norms of their era. Their graphics offer Fraleigh's figures a haven as well as a lineage. Another key element to Fraleigh's paintings is her depiction of women together. The "sleeping woman" trope has always been about power, existing to satisfy the voyeuristic viewer. Fraleigh subverts this motif by rendering one woman noticing the other either through her gaze or through contact. This interaction closes a loop wherein there is no room for the viewer. These women are here for each other, and as a result they hold the power. Even routine formal decisions benefit the artist's concept. While the paintings included in *Fluttering still* range from the intimate (24 x 18 inches) to the grand (90 x 66 inches), Fraleigh's figures are always life-sized or larger. Treated this way, no woman is diminished.

Angela Fraleigh (b. 1976) earned her MFA from Yale University School of Art and her BFA from Boston University. Her solo exhibitions include Inman Gallery in Houston, TX; PPOW Gallery in New York, NY; Peters Projects in Santa Fe, NM; and James Harris Gallery in Seattle, WA. She has exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, TX and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO, and has been the recipient of several awards and residencies including the Yale University Alice Kimball English grant; The Sharpe-Walentas Program Brooklyn, NY; and the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha, NE. Fraleigh has created site-specific solo projects for the Edward Hopper House Museum and Study Center (Shadows Searching for Light, 2018) and the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site (Lost in the Light, 2015), the Everson Museum of Art (Between Tongue and Teeth, 2016) and the Delaware Art Museum (Sound the Deep Waters, 2019). She currently lives and works in Allentown, PA, where she is a Full Professor and Department Chair at Moravian College. This is her debut solo exhibition with H&A Modern.

Angela Fraleigh *Fluttering still* opens at Hirschl & Adler Modern on Thursday, February 10 and runs through Friday, March 12, 2021. Located on the 9th 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 5:15 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 or tedh@HirschlAndAdler.com. Please visit our website at www.HirschlAndAdler.com for an online preview of the exhibition.