

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROBERT RUSSELL

MILES

McENERY

GALLERY

3 FEBRUARY – 12 MARCH 2022

NEW YORK, NEW YORK – MILES McENERY GALLERY is pleased to announce an exhibition of recent paintings by Robert Russell. The artist's inaugural exhibition at the gallery will open on 3 February at 520 West 21st Street and remain on view through 12 March 2022. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated digital catalogue featuring an essay by Naomi Lev.

"Still life will become, above all, alive. Like life itself, it will always have something new to tell you, some marvel to highlight, some mystery to reveal." – Marcel Proust.

Russell's paintings of teacups are enchanting, vibrant, elegant, and charismatic. He depicts fragility with such precision that one can envision their grandmother's cupboard, the chimes of porcelain clinking in anticipation for a special occasion, and a tea kettle whistling away in the kitchen of a loved one's home. Meticulously detailed single flowers with accompanying floral patterns and designs take shape in the larger than life teacups and saucers. His process begins with absorbing loads of visual information and gathering images of relics from eBay and online estate sales. Set against deep black backgrounds as seen in many Dutch and Spanish Baroque still lifes, he elevates and monumentalizes the diminutive and delicate objects into pieces of grandeur and adoration.



The artist splendidly enhances the colors, brightness, and light of the source image. The six large scale paintings invite close, deliberate examination from the spectator. "When viewed from a distance, the teacups look three dimensional and exuberant, but as we zoom in and physically approach them, other qualities are revealed. Then, smooth brushstrokes blend with more expressive ones, and the parts of the form that seemed so realistic, become obscure and layered," Naomi Lev reveals.

The history of painting and the importance of material are constants in Russell's oeuvre. He describes the universal mystery of the painting process as "a ritualistic practice and an act of faith" until the object in the painting finally reveals itself "in some kind of a magical way." These lustrous teacups function as modern day Vanitas or memento moris to remind us of the fragility and wondrousness of human existence. The vividness and richness of the objects represent the abundance of a delicate life and remind the viewer to live gently and affectionately.

ROBERT RUSSELL (b.1971, in Kansas City, MO) received his Master of Fine Arts from the California Institute of the Arts, Santa Clarita, CA and his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI.

Recent solo exhibitions include Miles McEnergy Gallery, New York, NY (forthcoming); "Teacups," Anat Ebgi Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "A Theory of Clouds," OSMOS Station, Stamford, NY; "Book Paintings," Anat Ebgi Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "Moore. More. Moore!" Anat Ebgi Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "Lisa," The Cabin LA, Los Angeles, CA; "Tonic Immobility," Burrard Arts Foundation, Vancouver, Canada; "Amateurs," LAXART, Los Angeles, CA; "Sein und Schein" (curated by Cay Sophie Rabinowitz), Big Pond Artworks, Munich, Germany; "Men Who are Named Robert Russell," OSMOS, New York, NY; "Men Who are Named Robert Russell," François Ghebaly

Miles McEnergy Gallery

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Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "Masters," François Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "Scattershot," Anna Helwing Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "Pink," Anna Helwing Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "Robert Russell: Recent Work," Limn Gallery, San Francisco, CA, and "Skaters," Frumkin/Duval Gallery, Santa Monica, CA.

Recent group exhibitions include "Mystic Truths" (curated by Brooke Wise), NeueHouse Bradbury, Los Angeles, CA; "Good Company: Pt. I," Anat Ebgi Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "The Conversation," Anat Ebgi at Minnesota Street Projects, San Francisco, CA; "Perfect Day," Roberts and Tilton Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "The Art of Politics," Pasadena Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA; "Loosely Bound: Launch of Material Press," Material Press, Los Angeles, CA; "Men Named Robert Russell" (for Material Press), Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; "Manifest:Justice," Los Angeles, CA; "P&CO," Thomas Duncan Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "The Dorian Project," Second Guest Projects, New York, NY; "Los Angeles Contemporary Tendencies" (curated by Annka Kultys), Helene Bailly Gallery, Paris, France; "The New Verisimilitude," M+B Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "The Los Angeles Initiative - Rema Hort Mann Foundation," Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; "On Forgery" (curated by Andrew Berardini and Lesley Moon), LAXART, Los Angeles, CA; "Summer Group Show," Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Culver City, CA; "California Dreamin'," Portugal Arte 10, Lisbon, Portugal, and "Dilettantes, Dandied and Divas," Gavlak Projects, Palm Beach, FL.

Russell lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

Miles McEnergy Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and by appointment.

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Image: *Teacup #27*, 2021, Oil on canvas, 60 x 60 inches, 152.4 x 152.4 cm

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