

# GLADSTONE

## Karen Kilimnik, Known for Her Enchanted Figurative Paintings, Joins Gladstone Gallery

Gladstone Gallery today announces U.S. representation of American artist Karen Kilimnik.

Active since the late 1980s, Kilimnik gained critical attention early on for her scattered assemblages of found objects—three-dimensional mise-en-scenes invoking fictional narratives and fanciful places. Since then she has primarily focused on painting, developing a theatrical style evoking stage backdrops where masterpieces are recreated with deliberate artifice. These paintings exist in an intriguing space between fantasy and authenticity, embracing their own calculated imperfection.

Kilimnik's oeuvre serves as a powerful feminine counterpoint to the hyper-masculine ethos of American art. Her work deftly navigates the intersection of romantic tradition and consumer culture, infusing painting with an uncanny and contradictory beauty. She constructs an enchanted realm populated by ballet dancers, childhood reveries, and mystical undertakings—in which she simultaneously channels the equestrian paintings of George Stubbs and the fierce charisma of *The Avengers'* Emma Peel. Through this distinctive vision, Kilimnik invites the viewer into her land of illusion, where she reimagines the romantic sublime for our times.

"I have had the pleasure of knowing Karen Kilimnik for nearly 35 years. Back in the days when artists submitted 35mm slides to galleries. She is part of my own origin story in the world of art in New York City. She helped me, and so many others understand what contemporary art could be at the dawn of a new century. Her work is complex and defies easy categorization. It is intimately personal and wonderfully opaque. It is thoroughly American, yet also completely saturated in the borderless mediated world we all now inhabit. I have always been a superfan, and I'm thrilled to welcome Karen to Gladstone Gallery." said Gavin Brown.

Gladstone will mount its first exhibition with Kilimnik in January 2025. Her work has been included in major exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, and Carnegie Museum of Art, among others. Her works are held in leading institutional collections across the U.S. including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Modern Art, Carnegie Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and Whitney Museum of American Art, among others; and international collections including Fondazione Prada, Fondazione Di Vignola, Statens Museum for Kunst. Kilimnik studied at Temple University in Philadelphia, where she was born and raised.

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