

Ross + Kramer is pleased to announce the New York solo debut of Ana Benaroya. Entitled *The Softest Place on Earth*, the exhibition will run from November 12 - December 19, 2020 at the gallery's new location at 515 W 27th Street.

The Softest Place on Earth features a new cycle of thirteen paintings, six works on paper, and a large scale bronze that take place in a salon, in the style of Gertrude Stein's. In the artist's own words: "The women who are in attendance are overflowing with creative passion and desire; it spills out of their bodies to create new bodies. In this salon, creation is intellectual, emotional and physical." The women read, write, and sculpt new women (as in *It Was Summer, I Was There, So Was She* (2020), Benaroya's homage to Jean-Léon Gérôme's *Pygmalion and Galatea* (1890)) as well as smoke, drink, and generally luxuriate. Benaroya re-encodes female domestic space as den of hedonism and creativity; a place for both consumption and production. Pulling from art history (Gérôme, Courbet) and pop culture (R&B group Xscape, to whom Benaroya attributes the title of the exhibition), the artist creates a promiscuous set of references in which to set scenes of sapphic desire.

Benaroya (b. 1986, New York, NY) lives and works in Jersey City, NJ. She completed her undergraduate studies at Maryland Institute College of Art in 2008, and received her MFA from Yale University in 2019. Benaroya has been the subject of a two person exhibition at Postmasters Gallery, NY (2018) and more recently a solo exhibition at Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles (2019). Her contemporary works were paired with historical works by Peter Saul in an exhibition at Ross + Kramer's East Hampton location in 2019. Benaroya has been awarded residencies at the Iceland Residency, Light Grey Art Lab (2015), the Newark Print Shop (2017), and Palazzo Monti in Brescia, Italy (2020).

To accompany this exhibition, Ross + Kramer has published a new monograph which includes texts by Piper Marshall and Morgan Aguiar-Lucander, as well as an interview between the artist and fellow painter and former Yale classmate, Rebecca Ness. The book will be available for purchase at the gallery and through www.rkgallery.com. For more information, please contact Emma Fernberger, emma@rkgallery.com or call (917) 675-7293.