Catharine Clark Gallery, New York, NY | May 10-12

Monograph Release: Nina Katchadourian: Sorted Books

May 10-12 | By appointment (additional hours below)

Catharine Clark Gallery, New York
313 West 14th Street, 2F | New York, NY 10014

New York, NY: Catharine Clark Gallery announces the release of Nina Katchadourian’s monograph Sorted Books, published by Chronicle Books, with a series of events May 10-12 at Catharine Clark Gallery, New York. Coinciding with Frieze Art Fair and celebrating the release of the publication, Catharine Clark Gallery, New York, presents a solo exhibition of the most recent addition to Katchadourian’s “Sorted Books” series, titled “Once Upon a Time in Delaware/In Quest of the Perfect Book,” originally commissioned by the Delaware Art Museum. The book release events and exhibition are open to the public May 10-12 (hours below).

Nina Katchadourian’s Sorted Books monograph chronicles 20 years of the Sorted Books project, and includes over 90 color plates of book sortings at eight different book collections since 1993. Including an introductory essay “Open Stacks,” by Brian Dillon, and written prefaces to each sorting by the artist, the book itself is visually and intellectually compelling in its own right, becoming another dimension of the original project. In its examination of novel objecthood, photography, and portraiture, Publisher’s Weekly cites Katchadourian’s project as “particularly relevant… two decades later, with tablets and e-readers prevalent.”

Nina Katchadourian’s Sorted Books involves a process of mining library collections, “sorting” book titles for narrative sequences, and ultimately photographing the book clusters. The arranged volumes transcend their objecthood, each title becoming a line in a poem and a part of a visual composition. Brian Dillon writes of the project: “Sorted Books… is a work in which the ‘found object’ is subject alike to chance and the most painstaking choices; delicate conceptual game with the horizontal and the vertical. But it is first of all an act of reading.” Whether within the shelves of friend’s studies or from a museum’s library collection, Katchadourian creates a two-fold photographic portrait: a cross-section of each library’s holdings and an elliptical portrait of its owner. Sorted Books exemplifies Nina Katchadourian’s artistic practice of finding the “artistic potential that lurks within the mundane,” refreshing the antiquated mediums of portraiture and novels by re-envisioning their functionality and potential.

Associated with the book release, Catharine Clark Gallery, New York, presents an exhibition of the most recent addition to Katchadourian’s Sorted Books series, “Once Upon a Time in Delaware/In Quest of the Perfect Book.” Katchadourian delved into the shelves of the Delaware Art Museum’s M.G. Sawyer Collection of Decorative Bindings, a collection of over 2,000 books from from1870 to 1920 that were acquired principally based on cover designs. Due to the specificity of the collection, the images in this sorting have a different composition, with the book covers facing forward rather than the spines. With this simple change, Katchadourian highlights both the linguistic and visual shifts within the Delaware Art Museum’s collection, and in American literature: from primly bound Victorian books that focus on knights, kings, and European history, to the racy covers of novels thirty years later, romanticizing the West, Native Americans, and American life.

Nina Katchadourian was born in Stanford, California. She received her Masters of Art from University of California, San Diego, and her double Bachelor of Arts with Honors from Brown University. Katchadourian’s work has been exhibited domestically and internationally, at PS1/MoMA, the Serpentine Gallery, New Langton Arts, Artists Space, SculptureCenter, Tang Museum, Turku Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, and the Palais de Tokyo. In February 2010, she was the artist in residence at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery in Dunedin, New Zealand, where she had a solo exhibit titled Seat Assignment. The Delaware Art Museum exhibited Once Upon in Delaware/In Search of the Perfect Book in 2012. Her work will be the subject of a traveling career survey curated by Veronica Roberts, with whom she will be in conversation with on Friday, May 10 at 7pm. Katchadourian’s work has been published in a number of national and international book editions, and has received critical attention in The San Francisco Chronicle, The New York Times, Art Review (UK), Art in America, ARTnews, and Artforum, among other publications. In Spring 2013, Katchadourian’s monograph Sorted Books was published by Chronicle Books. Katchadourian lives and works in Brooklyn, New York, and has shown with Catharine Clark Gallery since 1999.

Public Hours
Friday, May 10
Opening Reception 5:30–8:30pm
Nina Katchadourian and Veronica Roberts in Conversation 7pm

Saturday, May 11
Cocktail Party 6-9pm

Sunday, May 12
Open House Book Signing 10am-2pm
Brunch 10am-12pm
Book “Show and Tell” with Nina Katchadourian and selected participants 11am

Sorted Books is currently available through Catharine Clark Gallery or Chronicle Books for $25.
About Catharine Clark Gallery

Established in 1991, Catharine Clark Gallery exhibits the work of contemporary artists. A wide range of media is represented in the gallery’s program with an emphasis on content driven work. The gallery has pioneered the presentation of new media art in San Francisco, and is the first commercial gallery in the area with a dedicated media room. Exhibitions are hosted on a six-week schedule, featuring work by one or two solo artist in addition to media room installations. Additionally the gallery regularly participates in national and international art fairs.

Since 2007, the gallery has been located at 150 Minna Street, adjacent to the SFMOMA in the Yerba Buena Arts District. Catharine Clark Gallery will move to 248 Utah Street in the Summer of 2013, to a space designed by Los Angeles based Tim Campbell. This new location is within the neighborhood of the San Francisco Design Center and Showplace Square. Catharine Clark Gallery will add to the emerging cultural character of the Potrero Hill, which currently includes California College of the Arts (CCA), the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, and the Museum of Craft and Design. In 2010, Catharine Clark Gallery opened a pop up space in a residential apartment in New York’s Chelsea neighborhood (313 West 14th Street, 2F, between 8th and 9th Avenues). Exhibits, performances and installations of gallery artists’ work are presented at the New York location several times a year.

Catharine Clark Gallery will be closed to the public from April 21 – May 31, but open for appointment in San Francisco during this time. The gallery’s grand opening on Utah Street will be announced in June 2013. Catharine Clark and staff have several extra-mural programs planned for April, May, and June. For more information about programming or artists, please contact gallery staff: 415.399.1439 or 415.519.1439, or visit: www.cclarkgallery.com.

For further information, please contact:

Catharine Clark
Catharine Clark Gallery
M: 415.519.1439
cclarkgallery.com

Stephanie Smith
Catharine Clark Gallery
415.399-1439
marketing@cclarkgallery.com

2013 Advanced Exhibition Listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>San Francisco</th>
<th>New York</th>
<th>Art Fairs and Biennials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 10 -12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Solo Exhibition: Nina Katchadourian Sorted Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>In conjunction with the release of Sorted Books, published by Chronicle Books in 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 16 -19</td>
<td>ArtMRKT San Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 10-13</td>
<td>ArtMRKT Texas Contemporary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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