

**CATHARINE  
CLARK  
GALLERY**



**Deborah Oropallo and Michael Goldin**

# AMERICAN GOTHIC

May 27 - July 15, 2023

Opening: Saturday, May 27, 2023, 3 - 5pm  
Artists' talks at 4pm.

**DEBORAH OROPALLO** Biography

Deborah Oropallo (b. 1954, Hackensack, New Jersey) received a BFA from Alfred University and an MA/MFA from the University of California at Berkeley. Originally trained as a painter, Oropallo incorporates mixed media techniques, including photomontage, video, computer editing, printmaking, and painting into her practice. Whether still or moving images, the resulting works bear traces of the distortions that evolve or remain from the image manipulation. Her composite works layer visual sources, producing dense interplay between time, place, form, and content.

Oropallo's exhibition history includes monographic exhibits at Catharine Clark Gallery, California, the Boise Art Museum, Idaho, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, California, Montalvo Art Center, California, San Jose Museum of Art, California; and work in exhibits at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, Rivalry Projects, New York, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California, The Jewish Museum, New York, and Whitney Museum of American Art (Whitney Biennial), New York. In 2024, the Schneider Museum of Art, Oregon, will be hosting a monographic survey exhibition of Oropallo's work which will travel to the di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art accompanied by a catalogue. Oropallo's work is housed in the collections of the Anderson Collection at Stanford University, California, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, California, Museum of Modern Art, New York, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California, and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

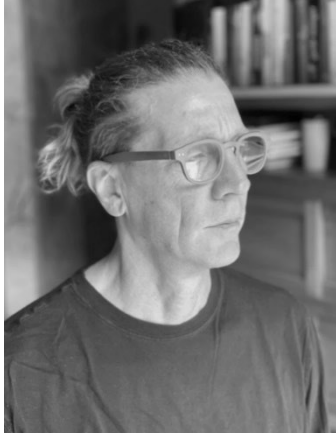
Oropallo began making video work in 2008 and her solo video works *Smoke Stacked* (2017) and *Going Ballistic* (2017) are held in the collections of the Nevada Museum of Art and the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Archive respectively. Since 2017, Oropallo has collaborated on video works with Andy Rappaport. Their collaborative video work *Smoke Stacked* (2017) is in the collection of the Nevada Museum of Art as a part of an ongoing initiative to collect and support works operating at the intersection of art and the environment. The artists' videos were featured in exhibitions at the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara, California, and will be exhibited in 2023 at Rivalry Projects, New York. In 2020, *FLIGHT* was acquired by 21c Museum Hotels, Kentucky, for its permanent collection. In 2022, both the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, and Kramlich Collection, California, acquired *One World* (2021), a 7 channel/7 screen video work.

Oropallo's work is the subject of two monographs: *POMP* (2009) published by Gallery 16, California, and *How To*, published by the San Jose Museum of Art, California. She is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Award, a Eureka Fellowship from the Fleishhacker Foundation, the Engelhard Award, and two grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation.

Oropallo lives in West Marin, California and has been represented by Catharine Clark Gallery since 2013.

## MICHAEL GOLDIN

### Biography



Michael Goldin works at the intersection of environmental consciousness and design. He received a B.S. in Biology from Washington University and a Master of Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley. As principal of Goldin Design and Swerve, Goldin developed major industrial design projects for civic, commercial, and private clients locally and internationally. Goldin's work for both firms has been featured in publications such as the New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Dwell, I.D., and Sunset, among others. He received a Design Achievement Award from the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association and served on the Architecture Accessions Committee for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art from 1997 - 1999. In 2022-2023, Goldin was a Design Consultant for SITU, a construction-tech startup.

Goldin co-founded Milk Made Farm in West Marin with his wife and collaborator, artist Deborah Oropallo, as a hybrid space for sustainable agriculture and creative practice. Goldin and Oropallo co-organized Swine & Swill, an immersive farm-to-table dinner at Catharine Clark Gallery in 2013 with chef Amaryll Schwertner, principal of Boulettes Larder. In 2023, he co-authored the installation FOWL WEATHER for the exhibition Sobremesa at Catharine Clark Gallery, also with Oropallo. Situ-Places, Design Consultant 2022-23.

Goldin lives and works in West Marin.

## **Deborah Oropallo and Michael Goldin: *American Gothic***

Catharine Clark Gallery announces *American Gothic*, a collaborative exhibition of sculpture, mixed media, and video by Deborah Oropallo and Michael Goldin. On view May 25 – July 15, 2023 in the South Gallery and Media Room, the exhibition pays tribute to the life cycle of a working farm, and the impact of climate change on local and global ecologies.

The title of the exhibition refers to an art style that emerged in the United States during the early 20th century. This style is characterized by a dark and foreboding atmosphere, often depicting rural settings as sites of isolation and the macabre. Grant Wood, the painter who popularized this style, created the iconic 1930 painting *American Gothic*: his painting portrays a stern-looking farmer and his daughter standing in front of a farmhouse with a distinctive Gothic-style window. Although Wood's intention was to pay tribute to the rural population of the Midwest and their political history, the painting is often misunderstood as a satirical comment on Midwesterners being out of touch with the modern world.

Drawing upon the pathos and parody inherent in this juxtaposition, the showcased works combine the gravity of *American Gothic* with the humor of *Looney Tunes*, two genres that emerged in American popular culture during the early 1930s. Oropallo and Goldin crafted their sculptures using materials sourced from their farm in Northern California, including sheep's wool, trees, bones, buckets, and boots. The resulting sculptures are exquisitely crafted and possess a darkly absurdist quality, exploring the tensions between the farmer and the farmed, as well as predators and prey.

Moreover, the exhibited works poignantly commemorate Milk Made, Oropallo and Goldin's working farm, which has faced increasing challenges due to drought conditions and climate change. In their own words, Oropallo and Goldin express the underlying sentiment behind *American Gothic*: "Our work in the exhibition stems from sadness and a sense of loss. We grappled with contradictions while creating the artwork, aiming to reflect this precarious moment in time while simultaneously celebrating the beauty of the incredible nature and environment we have been fortunate enough to experience on our farm."

"In our work, fairy tales continue to serve as cautionary stories about the environment, industrialization, and threats to sustainability in our political climate. By reimagining stories that have captivated and frightened children for over 200 years, we approach our work as both humorous and elegiac—a tribute to the land, stewardship, and a reminder of the stakes involved in the ongoing climate crisis."

Join us for an opening celebration on Saturday, May 27, 2023, from 3 – 5pm, with artists' talks at 4pm. *American Gothic* is presented simultaneously with Jen Bervin's *Source*, which is on view in our North Gallery through June 10, 2023.