

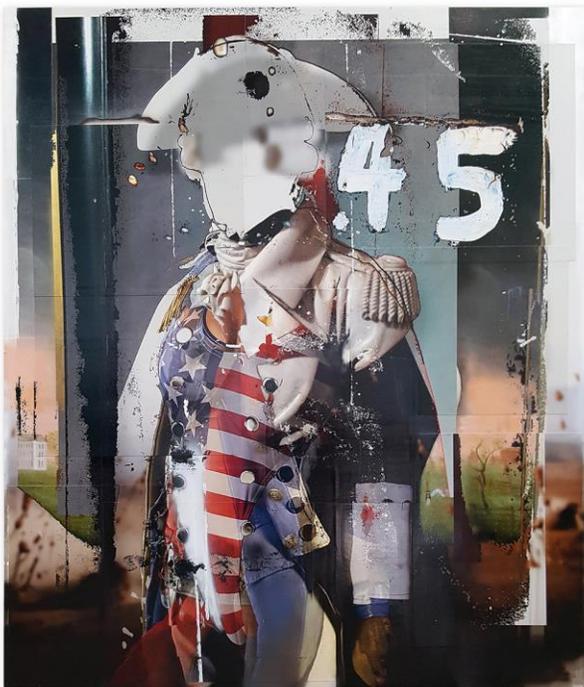
Deborah Oropallo

Bell the Cat

January 7 – February 18, 2017

Join us for an opening with Deborah Oropallo
on Saturday, January 7th from 3-6pm

Artist talk at 3pm



Deborah Oropallo
.45, 2016
Photomontage, paint, paper and canvas
70 x 60 inches

San Francisco, CA: Catharine Clark Gallery presents *Bell the Cat*, a solo exhibition by Deborah Oropallo on view January 7 – February 18, 2017. As with her previous exhibition, *Guise*, Oropallo's newest work investigates the legacies of gender and power in portraiture. Through compelling use of photomontage, Oropallo juxtaposes figures found in historical paintings with both images from costume catalogues and her own studio photography, layering these seemingly disparate sources into intricate compositions that explore portrayals of gender norms across visual culture.

Bell the Cat draws inspiration from fairy tales like Snow White and Little Red Riding Hood as iconic texts that have shaped how we relate to “femininity” in our culture. Since the 2016 presidential election, however, the work has taken on another resonance as women's rights and progressive causes have come increasingly under attack. Additional layers of paint and photomontage begin to distort the images beneath, gesturing to the constant disruption of pop-ups and consumer advertisements. Oropallo's aggressive interplay between media and images offers a startling proposition that in a new political era where misinformation can influence an election, cultural texts – however seemingly innocuous – are volatile. In conjunction with these unique mixed media works on canvas, Catharine Clark Gallery is pleased to debut Oropallo's first video work, *White as Snow*, as a complement to her gallery presentation.

Deborah Oropallo | *Bell the Cat*

January 7 – February 18, 2017

Saturday, January 7, 2016: Opening reception 3 – 6pm ; Artist talk 3pm

Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11 – 6pm; Thursday 11 – 7pm

Media inquiries contact Anton Stuebner: associate@cclarkgallery.com

DEBORAH OROPALLO was born in Hackensack New Jersey. She received a B.F.A. from Alfred University and an M.A and M.F.A. from the University of California, Berkeley. Although originally trained in painting, Oropallo's practice incorporates mixed media including photography, computer editing, printmaking technique and paint. Her composite works use layered visual sources to produce a dense interplay between time, place, form and content. The resulting works bear traces of the distortions that evolve or remain from digital manipulation and removal, a process she likens to painting.

Oropallo's work has been featured in solo exhibitions at the de Young Musuem, the Boise Art Museum, Montalvo Gallery, and the San Jose Museum of Art. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at the Whitney Biennial, the San Francisco Museum of Art, the Corcoran Gallery Biennial, the Jewish Museum, and the Richmond Art Center. Oropallo's work has been featured in two monographs: *POMP* (2009), published by Gallery 16, and *How To*, published by the San Jose Museum of Art. Oropallo is also a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Award, a Eureka Fellowship from the Fleishhacker Foundation, the Engelhard Award and a grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation.



Deborah Oropallo
Bear Arms, 2016
Photomontage, paint, paper and canvas
60 x 50 inches



Deborah Oropallo
Rigged, 2016
Photomontage, paint, paper and canvas
60 ½ x 50 inches