

Nina Katchadourian



5 Bay Area arts and entertainment events to check out this week

By Tony Bravo

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Nina Katchadourian, composite of stills from Orientation Video, 2020; single-channel video with sound.

Photo: Catharine Clark Gallery

Nina Katchadourian presents first solo show at Catharine Clark Gallery since 2014

Nina Katchadourian's "Monument to the Unelected" at Catharine Clark Gallery was one of the must-see visual art commentaries on the political system in 2020. Now, the artist kicks off the gallery's 2021 season with "To Feel Something That Was Not of Our World," a multidisciplinary show of new work.

In her first solo exhibition at Catharine Clark Gallery since 2014, Katchadourian invites viewers into an immersive and personal work that explores contemporary themes of "resourcefulness, hope and creative capacity under duress." It was inspired by her longtime fascination with the story of the Robertson family, who uprooted their life in England to sail around the world. When their sailboat was attacked by a pod of orcas, they sought refuge in a fiberglass dinghy in which they were adrift for 38 days. The family was eventually rescued and their story was documented in the 1973 book "Survive the Savage Sea."

In the spring of 2020, Katchadourian wrote to the family's oldest son, Douglas Robertson, and invited him to participate in 38 days of interviews about the ordeal to would correspond with the period when the family was lost at sea. The videos, sculptures, photographs, drawings and other works in the show are informed by the 50 hours of audio recordings the artist made as part of this process. As part of her process understanding what survival and hunting for food were like for the family, Katchadourian has created to-scale paper models of the animals they hunted for food including sea turtles and flying fish.

"To Feel Something That Was Not of Our World" by Nina Katchadourian: 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. Through Feb. 20. Free. Catharine Clark Gallery, 248 Utah St., S.F. 415-399-1439. cclarkgallery.com

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