

Deborah Oropallo

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Oropallo breaks mold of happily ever after

By Charles Desmarais

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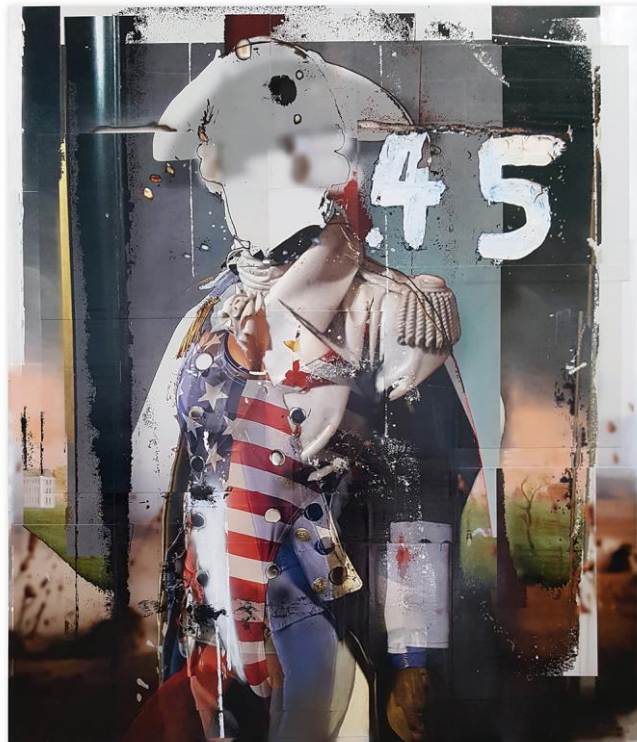
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Deborah Oropallo, *.45* (2016), photomontage, paint and canvas, 70 x 60 inches.

Unlike many artists who achieve regional and national notice early in their careers, then copy themselves forever after, Deborah Oropallo, at 62, continues to push herself and her process.

Oropallo was first celebrated for her facility as a painter — her work was included in the prestigious Whitney Biennial in 1998, and a retrospective organized in 2001 by the San Jose Museum of Art traveled to two other West Coast museums. She has since adopted a hybrid technique of digitally tweaked photography and hand-worked paint that answers questions — about real and image, depiction and imagination — that we didn't know we had.

The artist will give a talk about her work this weekend in conjunction with the opening of her latest exhibition, "Bell the Cat," at Catharine Clark Gallery.

"'Bell the Cat' draws inspiration from fairy tales like Snow White and Little Red Riding Hood," says a gallery press release, "as iconic texts that have shaped how we relate to 'femininity' in our culture."

From all appearances, it will be the perfect foil for this inaugural season.

The show, which also includes the artist's first work in video, "White as Snow," runs through Feb. 18.

Charles Desmarais is the San Francisco Chronicle's art critic.

Bell the Cat: *Deborah Oropallo will discuss her work on the opening of the exhibition. 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7. Catharine Clark Gallery, 248 Utah St., S.F. (415) 399-1439.*
<https://cclarkgallery.com>