

CHRIS CRAN

THAT'S AN EXCELLENT QUESTION!

November 15 – December 27, 2014

Artist Reception

Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 6 - 9 pm

Wilding Cran Gallery is pleased to present *That's An Excellent Question!* a new body of work by Canadian painter Chris Cran on view November 15– December 27, 2014. The exhibition marks Cran's first solo show in Los Angeles.

That's An Excellent Question! is an extension of Cran's *The Chorus Series*, which was an earlier body of work that was first presented in 2006 in an exhibition entitled *Novel*, and again more thoroughly in an 2011 exhibition entitled *Reading Room*, both at Trépanier Baer Gallery. The ongoing series consists of a selection of oval and round paintings that each contain a face expressing enjoyment, surprise, curiosity, doubt, or disdain and looks beyond the periphery of the work itself. The Chorus portraits are intended to be placed around other works of art (by Cran or others) thereby appropriating those works and engaging them into a larger theatre of viewing, like the Greek Chorus from which the series is named.

For this exhibition Cran has created 31 new works, a combination of Chorus portraits and a number of larger still life paintings to invite the gazes of the 'Chorus' and await their judgement. The works will float on the gallery walls, high and low, like the putti or cherubs in Renaissance and post-Renaissance paintings who also float around and, like the Greek chorus, comment on the main dramatic action.

Cran employs a wide-ranging color palette and experiments with textures as well as varied techniques to evoke the photographic image. His work explores the construction of personal and cultural identities and perceptual/cognitive illusion, both interests critically underpinned by the artist's disarming and revelatory sense of humor.

About Chris Cran

Chris Cran lives and works in Calgary, Alberta. He graduated in 1979 from the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary. Cran has exhibited widely including international exhibitions at the 49th Parallel Gallery, New York City (1992), Taejon Expo 93, South Korea and the Fourth International Painting Biennial, Cuenca, Ecuador (1994). A twenty year survey exhibition entitled *Chris Cran – Surveying the Damage 1977 to 1997*, curated by Clint Roenisch, was organized by Kelowna Art Gallery to tour nationally from 1998 to 2000. A catalogue accompanied the exhibition with essays by Dr. Roald Nasgaard and art critic Nancy Tousley. In 2015, Cran will have solo exhibitions at Southern Alberta Art Gallery and Art Gallery of Alberta; and The National Gallery of Canada will be presenting a solo exhibition of his work in 2016.

Cran's paintings are included in numerous collections, including The National Gallery of Canada, Canada Council Art Bank, Mendel Art Gallery (Saskatoon), University of

Lethbridge Art Gallery, Glenbow Museum (Calgary), Edmonton Art Gallery, Nickle Arts Museum (University of Calgary), Kenderdine Art Gallery (Saskatoon), Dunlop Art Gallery (Regina), the Banff Centre, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Art Gallery of Peel (Brampton), Art Gallery of Windsor, Kelowna Art Gallery and Museum of Canadian Contemporary Art (Toronto).

Cran has also ventured into a variety of other related activities including teaching art, curating exhibitions, and theatre set design. Cran was inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy in 2002. He received the ACAD Alumni Award of Excellence in 2011 and the Doug and Lois Mitchell Outstanding Calgary Artist Award in 2014.
www.chriscran.com

About Wilding Cran Gallery

Naomi Wilding and Anthony Cran established Wilding Cran Gallery in 2012 as a virtual platform committed to supporting the practice of contemporary art by emerging, mid-career and established artists. In April 2014, the gallery launched a physical space in the Arts District of Los Angeles to connect with the growing art community and be a platform to present the gallery's expanding roster of contemporary artists. Wilding Cran Gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 11– 4pm, Saturday from 12- 7pm and also by appointment.
www.wildingcran.com

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