



**PALO Gallery | 30 Bond Street, New York**

**Companion**

**February 8 – March 8**



Natalie Frank, *Woman with Flamingo*, 2021, linen paper pulp on cotton bed sheet, 37 x 25 in.



Natalie Frank, *Woman II*, 2019, linen paper pulp on cotton bed sheet, 37 x 25 in.

**New York, NY - PALO Gallery** is pleased to present “Companion,” an exhibition of artist Natalie Frank’s work. Natalie Frank (b. 1980) is an interdisciplinary artist whose oil paintings, gouache and chalk pastels, paper paintings, and ceramics, focus primarily on the intersections of feminism, sexuality, and violence. Across media, Frank’s oeuvre highlights the precarious state of women and their bodies throughout history, particularly in relation to erotic literature and fairy tales, but also within contemporary discourse surrounding such themes as sex work.

This series of works investigates the symbiotic relationships between women and animals in fairy tales and the power in their pairings. In the history of art there has long been the genre painting of men with their subservient animals, and Frank challenges this archetype by portraying women on a more equitable level with their animal companions—hinting at the difference in a need to dominate amongst men and women. Frank is drawn to fairy tales because they began as women’s tales, records of what life was like for women during specific times and in certain places, passed along orally through communal connections in traditionally femininely gendered spaces. Frank believes that women’s histories have been sanitized and coopted—that they are used to moralize to women and children to correct and influence behavior in a way that pleases the patriarchy. In this series, Frank is able to restore power to historical women, granting them depiction through the female gaze as opposed to the male gaze.

In this series of works Frank employs papermaking, using hand-pigmented linen paper pulp to “paint” these exciting portraits. Says Frank of the medium of paper pulp: “It feels even more free, more directly related to my imagination, harder to control, and at times, even more rewarding. I can stalk the same subject matter, magical transformations, women dressed up and down in private and performative moments. But I have found these images, which are just beginning to come out in this media, talk back; they seem to come forward.”

Art history is rich with a history of portraits of men and their hunting dogs, armor, and horses; Frank sees her pairings as a way to insert women and their identities, desires, and sexuality, into a history of portraiture.

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**About Palo Gallery**

Founded in 2018 in New York City by third-generation art collector and dealer Paul Henkel, Palo Gallery is dedicated to curating, managing and cultivating an intersection of emerging and established artistic talents. Palo brings to bear a tradition of art scholarship and patronage, working as a true thought partner with artists to realize their visions and create dynamic activations and experiences.

In 2022, Palo Gallery established a new flagship location, a 3,400 square foot space designed by Selldorf Architects in the NoHo district of Manhattan. Designed to be a destination of discovery, Palo Gallery’s multifaceted program ranges from solo presentations to curated exhibitions across a wide breadth of artistic endeavors. Palo Gallery is pleased to be the only dedicated partner showcasing Vica by Annabelle Selldorf.