

William Bailey

February 13 – March 22, 2014

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 13th, 6 – 8 PM



Afternoon in Umbria IV, 2012-2013, Oil on Linen, 51 x 63 ½ in

Betty Cuningham Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of paintings by William Bailey. This will be the artist's fifth exhibition at the Gallery, located at 541 West 25th Street, New York, NY. The artist will be present for an opening reception on Thursday, February 13th, from 6 – 8 PM.

While the current exhibition concentrates on William Bailey's recent work, both figure and still-life paintings, also included is a selection of earlier paintings including *Italian Profile* from 1963, *Girl in White Skirt* from 1977 and *L'Attesa* from 2006. The earlier works serve to reveal the evolution over the last 50 years of Bailey's painting style and subject.

From his early work to the present, his imagery - whether still life, landscape or figure- is composed solely from his imagination or as he would say, "it comes from my head." This imagery is adjusted and refined in each painting. In the two *Afternoon in Umbria* paintings in this show, the careful placements of the figures, basket, trees and landscape are all parts of a considered choice. In the essay that accompanies this exhibition, *A Note on William Bailey*, Mark Strand writes:

The beauty of his work, its dreamlike, almost theatrical rationality, lies far beyond the reach of accuracy and the simple demands of representation. It is able to straddle multiple realities—the actual and the imagined, the familiar and the strange.

Bailey was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He attended the University of Kansas, School of Fine Arts. After serving in the United States Army during the Korean War, he studied under Josef Albers at Yale where he received both his B.F.A. and M.F.A degrees. He has been exhibiting in New York since the late 1960's. William Bailey's work can be seen in a host of public and private collections, most notably the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the Phillips Collection, Washington, DC; National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY. Bailey is the subject of two monographs, one by Mark Strand and the other by John Hollander and Giuliano Briganti. He lives and works in New Haven, Connecticut and Umbria, Italy.



Ponte Pattoli, 2013, Oil on Linen, 14 x 14 in

For further information, artist biography and/or images, please contact the gallery.

Listing Information: Betty Cuningham Gallery is located at 541 W. 25th St, New York, New York 10001

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Public Transportation: C or E train to 23rd St.

Gallery Hours: Tues – Sat, 10am – 6pm

Next Exhibition: Rackstraw Downes, *Nature and Art are Physical*, March 29 - May 3, 2014