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Robert Fishko, *Director*

For Immediate Release

The Figure in Black and White

March 16 – April 22, 2023



Fernand Leger, *Étude pour la Grande Tour*, 1949,
gouache, ink, oil, and pencil on paper, 32 x 22 inches

New York, NY – Forum Gallery announces *The Figure in Black and White*, an exhibition of expressive figurative paintings, works on paper and textiles in grayscale by more than thirty artists from Modernist to Contemporary. *The Figure in Black and White* will be on view at Forum Gallery from Thursday, March 16 through Saturday, April 22, 2023.

Family portraits are the subject of a large-scale four-figure charcoal drawing fresh from the studio of **William Beckman**, a psychologically-charged painting by **Gregory Gillespie** and a whimsical work in charcoal, feathers and gold leaf by **Susan Hauptman**.

Moments of intimacy and quiet contemplation are experienced when viewing single portraits rendered by the sensitive hand of artists including **Steven Assael**, **William Bailey**, **Robert Bauer**, **Claudio Bravo**, **Joseph Fioretti**, **Joseph Hirsch**, **Craig McPherson**, **Guillermo Muñoz Vera**, **Joseph Stella** and **Charles White**. We will have signature examples by each of these artists on view in the exhibition. Also included will be a rare and exceptional example of the meticulous realism of Nebraskan artist, **Kent Bellows** who passed away in 2005.

Portraits of fellow artists on view include **John Graham**'s of painter and muralist Joseph Cain, **Jules Pascin**'s of German-American artist Emil Ganso, and **Oleg Vassiliev**'s of fellow Russian artist Erik Bulatov by a campfire. An ambitious etching by **Lucian Freud**, titled *After Chardin*, is an homage to *The Schoolmistress* painting by the 18th Century French artist. Another tribute is **Michael Leonard**'s

highly finished, witty self-portrait in graphite in which the Artist renders his own likeness as an effigy in a fictional 17th Century medallion by famed French medalist and sculptor Guillaume Dupré.

Transcending portraiture are charcoal drawings by **Alyssa Monks**, whose expressionistic female figures emerge anonymously from their vaporous environment, and by **Clio Newton**, whose works in heroic scale are defiant expressions of female empowerment. Further, **Alan Feltus'** stylized female subjects set in an Italian countryside become neo-Classical symbols of an ideal, while **Anthony Mitri's** atmospheric scene of strawberry pickers in a bucolic field offers a nod to their service.

Alan Magee revisits the subject he has long explored as an anti-war sentiment and call to peace in his haunting monotypes, while allegorical works by **Mark Podwal**, **Wade Schuman** and **Maria Tomasula** implore deeper thinking of human nature in ways unique to each Artist.

Brilliantly executed with reductive linework is a caricature by beloved New York artist **David Levine** of American composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, and a whimsical quilt by the ever-inventive **Michael C. Thorpe** inspired by his experiments with iPad drawing.

The Figure in Black and White will also explore the art of postwar New York. On view will be **Fernand Leger's** *Étude pour la Grande Tour* (*Study for the Great Tower*), a 1949 gouache, ink, oil and pencil work on paper of impressive scale featuring construction workers, the theme of some of the Artist's best-known oil paintings of the postwar period. In addition, we will present a double-sided graphite drawing by **Willem de Kooning**, a powerful expression of the psychological drama of figurative Abstract Expressionism that the Artist channeled in the early 1950s into a group of famed paintings and drawings depicting women.

You are invited to explore our Online Viewing Room for **The Figure in Black and White** here: viewingroom.forumgallery.com/viewing-room/the-figure-in-black-and-white



Kent Bellows, *Megan: August 1995, 1995*, graphite on paper, 18 x 28 3/4 inches



William Beckman, *W.D.D.T.*, 2022, charcoal on paper, 96 x 72 inches



Alyssa Monks, *Self Portrait in Charcoal*, 2017, charcoal on paper, 12 x 10 inches



Willem de Kooning, *Untitled (double-sided)*, c. 1951, pencil drawing on paper, 14 x 16 3/4 inches



Guillermo Muñoz Vera, *Selk'nam Woman (Rosa Kauxia)*, 2020, Conté pencil and graphite on Canson paper, 24 3/8 x 17 3/4 inches

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Forum Gallery is located at 475 Park Avenue at 57th Street, New York, NY 10022. Please visit viewingroom.forumgallery.com/viewing-room/the-figure-in-black-and-white to view the entire exhibition online. *The Figure in Black and White* begins on March 16, 2023 and will be on view through April 22, 2023. Forum Gallery is open to the public from Monday through Saturday, from 10am to 5:30pm.

For press inquiries, please contact 212-355-4545; galleries@forumgallery.com.

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