

MARY BOONE GALLERY

745 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10151. 212.752.2929

HILARY HARKNESS

On 5 May 2011, Mary Boone Gallery will open at its Fifth Avenue location an exhibition of new paintings by HILARY HARKNESS.

With these new works, Harkness – renowned for her deployment of Old Master techniques in service of a distinctly modern worldview – demonstrates a deepening of her craft and a heightened interrogation of gender, history, war, and the sociocultural forces that shape contemporary mores.

The show – Harkness’ fourth solo exhibition with Mary Boone Gallery – builds upon key symbols and themes in her previous work, including WWII and the period immediately preceding it, lushly detailed interior scenes that demonstrate the lived experience of historical actors, as well as raw sexuality, power, and the importance of craftsmanship.

Anchoring the exhibition is a cycle of works that feature the life of Alice B. Toklas and Gertrude Stein. Harkness’ meticulous research brings to life their transgressive and tortured relationship, posh lifestyle and fine art collection, and eventual flight from the Nazis as WWII raged. In *Pleasing Papa*, Harkness for the first time brings a historically specific man into the mix, with a leering Ernest Hemingway (a protégé-turned-adversary of Stein’s) flanking the ladies.

Harkness also explores the Eastern front of WWII with *Red Sky in the Morning*, a large “cross-section” painting of the WWII Japanese battleship Yamato, which was sent on a suicide mission toward Okinawa in 1945 (and, in Harkness’ telling, is populated with samurai and geishas).

The exhibition, at 745 Fifth Avenue, will run through 25 June 2011. For further information, please contact Ron Warren at the Gallery, or visit our website www.maryboonegallery.com.