

VENUS OVER MANHATTAN

Press Release

Venus Over Manhattan Announces Representation of Ana Benaroya



(New York, NY) – **Venus Over Manhattan** announced today that the gallery now represents artist **Ana Benaroya**. This news comes during the gallery's debut solo exhibition with the artist, titled **Swept Away**, which inaugurated the gallery's new downtown location at **55 Great Jones Street**.

Ana Benaroya's work centers substantial female subjects, whose extravagant musculatures upset more traditional expectations of femininity. Through her paintings and works on paper, Benaroya constructs a female gaze that recasts women in dominant roles, with an assertive, idiosyncratic presence. The muscles on Benaroya's figures both distort and ornament her subject's bodies, and speak to female desire and a queer sensibility. Striking, offbeat colors dominate the compositions, and the artist's intense, slightly macabre palette balances their figurative vigor and allure.

In her practice, Benaroya pulls from diverse sources to assemble a unique pictorial language. She cites gallery artist Peter Saul as a major inspiration, and her work often makes reference to graphic styles familiar from superhero comics. Her current exhibition at the gallery centers on images of women in relation to water, and through references to sources both art historical and contemporary, Benaroya explores the dynamics of queer desire,

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in which bodies are on display for themselves and on their own terms. In compositions animated by complex networks of attraction, Benaroya makes visible forms of lesbian desire that are typically rendered latent or invisible. As she recently recounted to Stephanie Eckardt in *W Magazine*, "I want depictions of female nudes that have desire and passion, but because the women are the sex objects—because they see that in each other [...] I feel like not many examples of that exist, from the perspective of someone like me."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ana Benaroya (b. 1986, New York City, NY) lives and works in Jersey City. She holds a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), and an MFA from the Yale University School of Art. Benaroya's work has been the subject of numerous solo presentations, including recent exhibitions at Carl Kostyál, London; Ross + Kramer Gallery, New York; Postmasters Gallery, New York; and the Masur Museum, Monroe, Louisiana. Her work features frequently in major group exhibitions both stateside and abroad, including recent presentations at Victoria Miro, London; Almine Rech, Paris; Allouche-Benias Gallery, Athens; and the International Print Center, New York. Benaroya's work is held in the permanent collections of many public institutions, including the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, the Pérez Art Museum, Miami; and Zuzeum Art Center, Riga, among others.

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55 Great Jones Street
New York, NY 10012

120 East 65th Street
New York, NY 10065

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday – Saturday
10:00 am – 6:00 pm

PRESS CONTACT

Andrea Schwan
Andrea Schwan, Inc.
info@andreaschwan.com
+1 (917) 371-5023

IMAGE CREDITS

Portrait of Ana Benaroya in her studio, 2022. Photo: Blaine Davis. Courtesy the artist and Venus Over Manhattan, New York.