

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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PRESS RELEASE



Jill Mulleady (b. 1980), *We Wither Time into a Coil of Fright*, 2019. Oil on linen, two panels, left panel: 66 1/8 x 35 3/8 in. (168 x 90 cm); right panel: 66 1/8 x 78 3/4 in. (168 x 200 cm), reproduced as vinyl print on billboard. Collection of the artist

THE WHITNEY TO DEBUT PUBLIC ARTWORK BY JILL MULLEADY ON MARCH 2

New York, February 27, 2020—A work by Jill Mulleady will be the tenth in the ongoing series of public art installations that have been presented since 2015 by the Whitney Museum and High Line Art on the façade of 95 Horatio Street. The 2019 painting, *We Wither Time into a Coil of Fright*—reproduced as a 17x29-foot vinyl print—will go on view on March 2 on the southwest corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets, located directly across from the Whitney and the High Line.

Mulleady is perhaps best known for her representational painting—frequently large-scale—that combines real and invented sources, while often reflecting on the history of art. With work that is notable for its graphic qualities, often referencing early twentieth-century Modernist painting, Mulleady draws upon her interest in Norwegian painter Edvard Munch, using his work as a creative springboard for her surreal world-making, and proposing the possibility of the co-existence of multiple temporalities in a single composition. Through her moody use of color, Mulleady further emphasizes this notion of existential isolation, an idea she has revisited repeatedly in her work, and that she sees as prevalent in this era of digital technology and the ubiquitous smartphone.

In *We Wither Time into a Coil of Fright*, Mulleady presents a surreal landscape populated by multiple figures in a scene she has described as a sort of “dance.” Though the figures are clustered close to one another by the riverbank, they appear disconnected—even self-absorbed. Suggesting that contemporary life is simultaneously hyper-connected and ultimately isolating, Mulleady heightens this dynamic through the lush, natural surroundings present in the scene. Without the protection and surveillance of the built environment, are these figures more free, more vulnerable, or both?

Jane Panetta, Curator and Director of the Collection, remarked, “The dialogue between repurposing art history and using decidedly contemporary references in Mulleady’s work allows for a unique recontextualization and presentation of the pressing realities of our current world, notably those of personal vulnerability and angst.”

We Wither Time into a Coil of Fright is part of a series of public art installations, organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art in partnership with TF Cornerstone and High Line Art, that has previously featured works by noted American artists, including Alex Katz (2014), Michele Abeles (2015), Njideka Akunyili Crosby (2015–2016), Torbjørn Rødland (2016-2017), Puppies Puppies (2017), Do Ho Suh (2017-2018), Christine Sun Kim (2018), Derek Fordjour (2018), and Lucas Blalock (2019).

About the Artist

Mulleady (b. Montevideo, Uruguay, 1980) lives and works in Los Angeles. She has been shown in recent exhibitions such as *May You Live in Interesting Times*, Venice Biennale (2019); *Fight-or-Flight*, Swiss Institute, New York (2019) (solo); *Claude Mirrors*, Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin (2019); *Feel the Sun in Your Mouth*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; and *Emissaries for Things Abandoned by Gods*, Casa Luis Barragán, Mexico City (2019). Recent solo exhibitions include: Galerie Neu, Berlin (2019); Schloss, Oslo (2018); Kunsthalle Bern (2017); Freedman Fitzpatrick, Los Angeles (2017); Gaudel de Stampa, Paris (2016); and Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples (2015). Her work is in major museums and private collections, including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Rubell Family Collection, Miami; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; and the Aishti Foundation, Beirut.

Curatorial Credit

Jill Mulleady: We Wither Time into a Coil of Fright is organized by Jane Panetta, Curator and Director of the Collection.

Exhibition Support

Jill Mulleady: We Wither Time into a Coil of Fright is part of Outside the Box programming, which receives generous support from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney’s mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

The Whitney’s Collection: Selections from 1900 to 1965	Ongoing
Order and Ornament: Roy Lichtenstein’s Entablatures	Through April 2020
Pope.L: Choir	Through March 8, 2020
Making Knowing: Craft in Art 1950–2019	November 22, 2019–January 2021
Cauleen Smith: Mutualities	February 17–May 17, 2020
Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, 1925–1945	February 17–May 17, 2020
Jill Mulleady: We Wither Time into a Coil of Fright	March 2–Fall 2020
Salman Toor: How Will I Know	March 20–July 5, 2020
Agnes Pelton: Desert Transcendentalist	March 13–June 21, 2020
Dave McKenzie: The Story I Tell Myself	Opens March 27, 2020

Nothing Is So Humble: Prints from Everyday Objects	June–September 2020
Julie Mehretu	June 26–September 20, 2020
Working Together: The Photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop	July–October 2020
Around Day's End: Downtown New York, 1970–1986	July–October 2020
My Barbarian	Opens September 2020
Public Art Project: David Hammons: Day's End	Opens September 2020
Jasper Johns	Opens October 28, 2020
Dawoud Bey: An American Project	Opens November 2020

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Museum hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm; Friday from 10:30 am to 10 pm. Closed Tuesday except in July and August. Adults: \$25. Full-time students, visitors 65 & over, and visitors with disabilities: \$18. Visitors 18 years & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

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