

FREDERICKS & FREISER

David Humphrey

porTraits

December 12, 2024 through February 8, 2025

Opening reception Thursday, December 12, 6pm to 8pm

Fredericks & Freiser is pleased to announce *porTraits*, an exhibition of new paintings by David Humphrey, a painter known for his dynamic and introspective approach to depicting the intersections of social relationships and individual psychology. In this series, Humphrey delves into a nuanced concept of portrayal, asking: *Are all artworks, in some way, self-portraits of their creators?*

In *porTraits*, Humphrey examines the nuances of personal narrative through paintings that blend humor, psychological inquiry, and painterly wit. His works offer a visual meditation on contemporary theories of selfhood, developing images from the public realm into imaginative hybrids that combine the social with the eccentrically individual; the historically referential with the vividly contemporary. In the gallery's main room, these paintings unfold as dynamic, figure-driven compositions that speak to human complexity and self-definition. Humphrey's bold palette and varied painting languages give form to philosophical questions about relational and emergent selves, transforming these ideas into accessible, often humorous visual metaphors.

The exhibition takes a deeply personal turn in the gallery's back room, where Humphrey's wife, artist Jennifer Coates, will create a special portrait of him using his own drawings, paintings, sculptures, and even music videos. This portrait within a portrait adds an intimate dimension, revealing the artist's multivalent interests and his thorough exploration of bewilderment at being human in this moment.

David Humphrey (b. 1955) is a distinguished American painter whose career spans over four decades, with 47 solo exhibitions at galleries including McKee Gallery, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., Fredric Snitzer Gallery, and the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati. His work is featured in the collections of major institutions such as the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and the Saatchi Gallery, London. A recipient of the prestigious Rome Prize, Humphrey is also a faculty member in Columbia University's MFA program. In 2020, Fredericks & Freiser published a monograph on his career, edited by Davy Lauterbach with essays by Wayne Koestenbaum and Lytle Shaw, and an interview with Jennifer Coates. *porTraits* marks his seventh solo exhibition with the gallery.