

SOMEONE SAID THAT THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Curated by Margot Samel

July 1 – August 6, 2021

54 White Street, New York, NY

GRIMM is pleased to announce *Someone said that the world's a stage*, a group exhibition with works by Dirk Braeckman, Ger van Elk, Christina Forrer, Louise Giovanelli, Sanya Kantarovsky, Sarah Margnetti, William Monk, Rosalind Nashashibi, B. Ingrid Olson, Michael Raedecker, Torbjørn Rødland, Daisy May Sheff, Cindy Sherman, Cauleen Smith, Emily Mae Smith and Matthias Weischer.

In the world of the theater, stage sets, masks, costumes, and curtains bring performances to life. They help make the illusion seem real. Although depictions of theater and cinema are not considered a genre in historical painting, elements of the theater have been referenced in art and literature for millennia, particularly curtains, which hold unique symbolic power. *Someone said that the world's a stage* brings together sixteen artists working in a variety of media to explore performance and theatrical imagery.

One of the earliest accounts of visual art and performance intersecting is the myth of Zeuxis and Parrhasius, said to have taken place as early as the 4th century B.C. It tells the story of two painters with such skill that Zeuxis' depiction of grapes deceived a flock of birds which attempted to eat them. However, it was Parrhasius' painting of a curtain which was so convincing that Zeuxis confused it with drapery concealing an artwork and reached to remove it.

Zeuxis conceded defeat to Parrhasius for his cunning, proclaiming him the superior artist. Such demonstrations of illusion and deceit are essential to suspending audiences' belief. *Someone said that the world's a stage* proposes that this symbolic language holds currency today by bringing together contemporary painting, video, and photography.

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