

Carrie Mae Smith

Four Plates and Four Forks

February 18 - March 18, 2023



Lowell Ryan Projects is pleased to present a solo exhibition titled, *Four Plates and Four Forks*, by Upstate New York-based artist Carrie Mae Smith. Composed of recent small-scale paintings of various cutlery, china, cuts of meat, pastries, and domestic interior scenes softly rendered in oil paint, these works continue Smith's exploration of domestic utilitarian objects, particularly with an interest in culinary articles and their social and historical implications. This will be Carrie Mae Smith's first solo exhibition in Los Angeles and with the gallery.

Shape, light, color, and composition are meticulously explored in these luminous works, which are rendered in shades of blue, cream, gold, pinks, and saturated reds. These quiet paintings highlight the formal simplicity of a teacup and saucer, the abstract beauty of an uncooked lamb chop, and the exquisite sweetness of a lush square of cream sandwiched between layers of puff pastry. The daughter of a butcher, Smith supported her artistic practice early on working as a private chef. Quiet moments alone in the kitchen precipitated the contemplation of ingredients, serving ware, and culinary implements, as well as the meaning that can be associated with them. Fine china and silver have long been symbols of status, family, tradition, and history, while expensive cuts of meat and delicate pastries are not foods of the working class. As Smith's focus has primarily shifted to her artistic practice, she continues however to contemplate the subtle meanings of these items in her work.

While savoring the act of painting, Smith's process also references the gesture of serving. The act of serving a meal or a cup of tea now applies to family, friends, and loved ones, but through her paintings extends to the viewer as well. In the title work of the exhibition, *Four Forks and Four Plates*, 2022 a stack of four gold and teal-rimmed plates rest on a beige surface. Two forks are on top of the stack and two forks rest next to the plates as if waiting to be set out on the table in preparation for dinner, or possibly dessert. The soft cast of daylight reflects from the tongs of the forks and extends an almost lavender-hued shadow off the side of the china. The softness of Smith's brushwork alludes to the effortless nature of setting down the plates and knives on the table, almost as if a second-nature movement. While the skill of Smith's brushwork and the process of setting a table are not instinctive acts, but instead the result of years of practice, attention to detail and refinement, Carrie Mae Smith's works allow the viewer to surrender to her process and relish in the moment of reflection and anticipation.

For more information please contact: info@lowellryanprojects.com



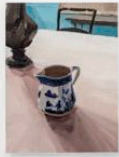
Carrie Mae Smith
Creamer, Servants Dining Room
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
12h x 9w inches
30.48h x 22.86w cm
CS-152



Carrie Mae Smith
Creamer, Servants Dining Room (detail), 2022



Carrie Mae Smith
*Two Blue and White Bouillon Cups
and Saucers*
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
12h x 12w inches
30.48h x 30.48w cm
CS-153





Carrie Mae Smith
Two Espresso Cups
2022
Oil on panel
9h x 7w inches
22.86h x 17.78w cm
CS-154



Carrie Mae Smith
Two Espresso Cups (detail), 2022



Carrie Mae Smith
Two Demitasse Spoons
2022
Oil on panel
5h x 7w inches
12.70h x 17.78w cm
CS-141





Carrie Mae Smith
Lusterware Pitcher with Maiden
2022
Oil on ACM panel
(Aluminum Composite Material)
14h x 12w inches
35.56h x 30.48w cm
CS-113



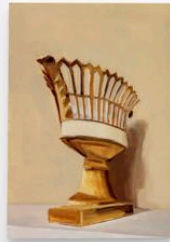
Carrie Mae Smith
Lusterware Pitcher with Maiden (detail), 2022



Carrie Mae Smith
Copper Lusterware Pitcher
2022
Oil on ACM panel
(Aluminum Composite Material)
14h x 12w inches
35.56h x 30.48w cm
CS-114



Carrie Mae Smith
*Gold Rimmed Teacups and Saucers
in Jonathan's China Cupboard*
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
11h x 8w inches
27.94h x 20.32w cm
CS-155





Carrie Mae Smith
Serving Dishes in China Cupboard
(Hyde Hall)
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
14h x 17w inches
35.56h x 43.18w cm
CS-156



Carrie Mae Smith
*Lusterware Fruit Compote in
China Cupboard (Hyde Hall)*
2023
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
17h x 12w inches
43.18h x 30.48w cm
CS-157



Carrie Mae Smith
*Jonathan's Gold Rimmed
Teacups and Saucers*
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
14h x 17w inches
35.56h x 43.18w cm
CS-151



Carrie Mae Smith, *Jonathan's Gold Rimmed Teacups and Saucers* (detail), 2022



Carrie Mae Smith
*Napoleon Pastry with Lattice
Icing*
2022
Oil on ACM panel
(Aluminum Composite
Material)
14h x 12w inches
35.56h x 30.48w cm
CS-117



Carrie Mae Smith, *Napoleon Pastry with Lattice Icing (detail)*, 2022



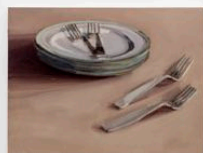
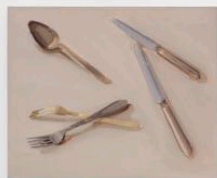
Carrie Mae Smith
*Covered Serving Dish and
Egg Cups in China Cupboard
(Hyde Hall)*
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on
panel
12h x 16w inches
30.48h x 40.64w cm
CS-148



Carrie Mae Smith
Egg Cups in China Cupboard
(Hyde Hall)
2023
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
12h x 12w inches
30.48h x 30.48w cm
CS-147



Carrie Mae Smith, *Egg Cups in China Cupboard (Hyde Hall)* (detail), 2023





Carrie Mae Smith
Flatware on Linen
2022
Oil on ACM panel
(Aluminum Composite Material)
14h x 17w inches
35.56h x 43.18w cm
CS-158



Carrie Mae Smith, *Flatware on Linen* (detail), 2022



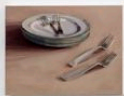
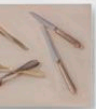
Carrie Mae Smith
Four Plates and Four Forks
2022
Oil on panel
12h x 16w inches
30.48h x 40.64w cm
CS-149

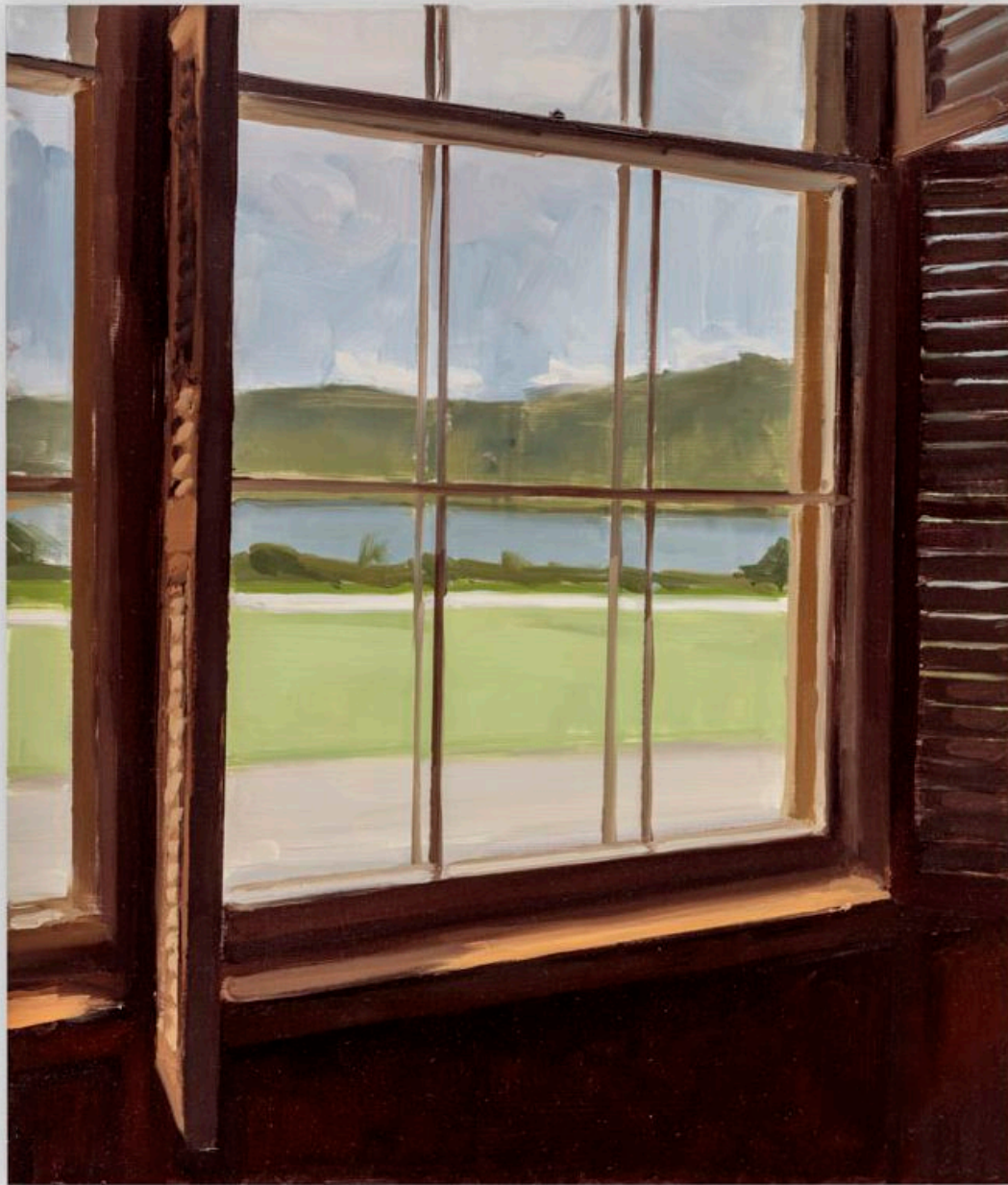


Carrie Mae Smith
Fork, Knife and Spoon
2022
Oil on panel
4h x 17w inches
10.16h x 43.18w cm
CS-146



Carrie Mae Smith
Egg Cup
2022
Oil on panel
8h x 7w inches
20.32h x 17.78w cm
CS-131





Carrie Mae Smith
Looking Out Over Hyde Bay
2022
Oil on ACM panel
(Aluminum Composite Material)
14h x 12w inches
35.56h x 30.48w cm
CS-127



Carrie Mae Smith
*Dining Room Chair in the Grand
Dining Room*
2022
Oil on ACM panel
(Aluminum Composite Material)
12h x 9w inches
30.48h x 22.86w cm
CS-119



Carrie Mae Smith
Silver Bowl and Snap Peas
(after W. Nicholson)
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
11h x 14w inches
27.94h x 35.56w cm
CS-159



Carrie Mae Smith, *Silver Bowl and Snap Peas (after W. Nicholson)* (detail), 2022





Carrie Mae Smith
From the Garden (Snap Peas)
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
9h x 12w inches
22.86h x 30.48w cm
CS-142



Carrie Mae Smith, *From the Garden (Snap Peas)* (detail), 2022



Carrie Mae Smith
Flatware on White Linen
2022
Oil on ACM panel
(Aluminum Composite Material)
24h x 18w inches
60.96h x 45.72w cm
CS-129



Carrie Mae Smith, *Flatware on White Linen* (detail), 2022





Carrie Mae Smith
Slab Bacon
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on
panel
10h x 15w inches
25.40h x 38.10w cm
CS-111





Carrie Mae Smith
NY Strip Steak
2023
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
14h x 9w inches
35.56h x 22.86w cm
CS-160



Carrie Mae Smith
Lamb Chops
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
22h x 13w inches
55.88h x 33.02w cm
CS-106



Carrie Mae Smith, *Lamb Chops* (detail), 2022



Carrie Mae Smith
Rib Eye Steaks
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
22h x 13w inches
55.88h x 33.02w cm
CS-110



Carrie Mae Smith
Rib Eye Steak
2022

Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
14h x 12w inches
35.56h x 30.48w cm
CS-107



Carrie Mae Smith
Rib Eye Steak (detail), 2022





Carrie Mae Smith
Three Pork Chops
2023
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
12h x 12w inches
30.48h x 30.48w cm
CS-162



Carrie Mae Smith
Two Pork Chops, Overlapping
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
12h x 12w inches
30.48h x 30.48w cm
CS-161



Carrie Mae Smith, *Two Pork Chops, Overlapping (detail)*, 2022



Carrie Mae Smith
Pork Chop
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
15h x 9w inches
38.10h x 22.86w cm
CS-109



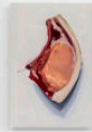
Carrie Mae Smith, *Pork Chop* (detail), 2022



Carrie Mae Smith
Two Chops
2022
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
7h x 5w inches
17.78h x 12.70w cm
CS-140



Carrie Mae Smith
Three Thick Cut Pork Chops
2023
Oil on Mylar mounted on panel
17h x 14w inches
43.18h x 35.56w cm
CS-163





Carrie Mae Smith (b. 1974, Derby, CT) lives and works in Upstate New York. Smith's paintings are often depictions of items from a particular museum, acquired from local estate sales, or ingredients that she herself will cook. Influenced by her life in the Northeastern United States, including having worked as a private chef on Martha's Vineyard, Smith's works serve as symbols of class, labor, friendship, tradition, love, and utility. She holds an MFA in Visual Arts from the University of Delaware (2013). Smith has received numerous awards and grants including the Clowes Fellowship Full Scholarship, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT; Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, Inc. Artist Grant; and the Ruth and Harold Chenven Foundation, Artist Grant. She has exhibited her work internationally and nationally, with recent solo exhibitions at the Locust Grove Estate, Poughkeepsie, NY, and The Berman Museum, Collegeville, PA. Carrie Mae Smith currently lives and works in the Catskills in Upstate New York, where she serves on the faculty at SUNY Oneonta.

Carrie Mae Smith photographed by Xanthe Elbrick Photography.



For more information please contact: info@lowellryanprojects.com