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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carrie Chen Gallery Announces SUZANNE KIGGINS: HARMONICA

(Great Barrington, MA– October 1, 2022) The Carrie Chen Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition SUZANNE KIGGINS: HARMONICA from November 12, 2022 to January 14, 2023. This solo exhibition presents new paintings from Brooklyn-based artist Suzanne Kiggins. In Harmonica, fantastical imagery is rendered with heightened emotion, creating a fully realized “through the looking glass” world. A private reception will be held on Saturday, November 12, from 3-5pm. Spaces are limited; email at info@carriechengallery.com to RSVP.

Kiggins’ unconventional use of perspective, her bold color palette, and her emphasis on highly impactful emotion, rather than realism, are reminiscent of the fauvist and naive art movements. Her paintings evoke both Henri Rousseau’s imaginative portrait landscapes, and the thrilling mystery of Camille Bombois. But Kiggins’ style is wholly original. She combines technological motifs and animal imagery, utilizing energetic movement to convey the tensions of modern life. Her paintings can be exuberant or tempestuous– but they are always captivating.

Chief curator and gallery owner Carrie Chen comments: “Suzanne’s work reveals hidden truths about everyday life, which we can all relate to. Each painting is precise and defined. Yet as a whole, Harmonica is unified by its amusing, cheerful qualities.”

Kiggins is an autodidact. Though it’s difficult to believe, she has only begun displaying her paintings within the last three years. This distance from the formalities of the traditional art world allows for stunning originality. Kiggins remarks, “This show explores the existence of the powerful, often opposing forces that exist within us, such as the need for freedom and the need for connection, the desires for chaos and order, for creation and destruction... and the pursuit of the integration and peaceful coexistence of these competing desires, and ultimately, harmony.” Harmonica is Kiggins’ second solo exhibition. It is a rare opportunity to witness an emerging artist with remarkable clarity of vision.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Suzanne Kiggins is a self-taught artist who works primarily with acrylic and gouache on paper, wood panel, and canvas. She takes inspiration from everyday experiences and imagery, as well as dreams and the feelings and moods they evoke. Her work has been displayed extensively throughout New York, including a solo exhibit at Secret Project Robot in Brooklyn, and group shows at ArtPort Kingston, Flux House at Governor’s Island, The Other Art Fair in Brooklyn, The Wassaic Project, and SPRING/BREAK in Manhattan. Kiggins lives in Brooklyn, NY.

ABOUT THE CARRIE CHEN GALLERY

The Carrie Chen Gallery is located on Main Street in Great Barrington, MA. The gallery showcases talented artists, both from the Berkshires and Hudson Valley and from around the world. These artists work in a wide range of styles and media, yet are united by their integrity and innovation. We support and share their visionary work with audiences. The gallery follows this mission with exhibitions, lectures and readings, public installations, and collaboration. Gallery hours are Saturday to Wednesday 11-5 by appointment only.
www.carriechengallery.com

Due to the current surge in COVID-19 cases, gallery occupancy will be limited at the opening reception for this exhibition. For the safety of our community, visitors must provide vaccine records and must be properly masked at all times in the space.

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Image Captions

Suzanne Kiggins, *La Vie en Rose*, gouache on paper, 15 x 11 inches

Image File: <https://www.carriechengallery.com/suzanne-kiggins-harmonica?itemId=rt3otgsfpw8w5y0dezl5m65r0696qq>

Suzanne Kiggins, *Lullaby*, gouache on wood panel, 36 x 48 inches

Image File: <https://www.carriechengallery.com/suzanne-kiggins-harmonica?itemId=mhi35vqvg8r835w8a4wp7h2w0p32yq>

Suzanne Kiggins, *Jukebox Cathedral*, gouache and acrylic on canvas, 36 x 48 inches

Image File: <https://www.carriechengallery.com/suzanne-kiggins-harmonica?itemId=fuai6ungc4267hexb9qw7y32xj8ay1>

Suzanne Kiggins, *Accordion Heart*, gouache on paper, 9 x 12 inches

Image File: <https://www.carriechengallery.com/suzanne-kiggins-harmonica?itemId=2kwm33xgu0ic8o8979pq6zmvndioci>

Suzanne Kiggins, *Harmonica*, gouache on paper, 15 x 11 inches

Image File: <https://www.carriechengallery.com/suzanne-kiggins-harmonica?itemId=5p5fscvjl6u9ujng7ka02i7npvm2cn>