



Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin. *Kirsten, Star*, 1997  
Pigment print, 39 2/5 x 29 1/2 inches  
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## **DISTURBING INNOCENCE**

### **Curated by Eric Fischl**

#### **Exhibition Dates:**

October 25, 2014 – January 31, 2015

#### **Opening Reception:**

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

**The FLAG Art Foundation is pleased to present *Disturbing Innocence*, a group exhibition curated by artist Eric Fischl, on view on FLAG's 9<sup>th</sup> floor from October 25, 2014 – January 31, 2015.**

*Disturbing Innocence* features 58 historical and contemporary artists whose use of dolls, toys, mannequins, robots, and other surrogates forms a deep and powerfully expressive genre. The exhibition poses profound questions surrounding social constructs of youth, beauty, transformation, violence, sexuality, gender, identity, and loneliness. Inspired by Fischl's own childhood in suburban Long Island, NY, and his early career as an artist working in New York City in the 1980's, *Disturbing Innocence* presents a subversive and escapist world at odds with the values and pretensions of polite society.

**Selected Artists Include:** Morton Bartlett, Hans Bellmer, Louise Bourgeois, James Casebere, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Gregory Crewdson, James Croak, Henry Darger, E.V. Day, Peter Drake, Carroll Dunham, Inka Essenhigh, Eric Fischl, Alberto Giacometti, Steve Gianakos, Robert Gober, Mike Kelley, Charles LeDray, David Levinthal, Roy Lichtenstein, Sarah Lucas, Paul McCarthy, Walter Martin & Paloma Muñoz, Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Jim Nutt, Tony Oursler, David Salle, Cindy Sherman, Laurie Simmons, Wolfgang Stoeckle, Inez Van Lamsweerde & Vinoodh Matadin, John Waters, John Wesley, Lucy Winton, Lisa Yuskavage, among others.

Accompanying the exhibition is a fully illustrated catalogue with an original text by **James Frey**, 'A Real Doll' by **A.M. Homes**, and a conversation featuring **Eric Fischl**, **David Salle**, **Cindy Sherman**, and **Laurie Simmons**, moderated by FLAG Founder **Glenn Fuhrman**.

**Eric Fischl** is an internationally acclaimed American painter and sculptor. His artwork is represented in many distinguished museums throughout the world and has been featured in over one thousand publications. His extraordinary achievements throughout his career have made him one of the most influential figurative painters of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Fischl was born in 1948 in New York City and grew up in the suburbs of Long Island. He began his art education in Phoenix, Arizona where his parents had moved in 1967. He attended Phoenix College and earned his B.F.A. from the California Institute for the Arts in 1972. He then spent some time in Chicago, where he worked as a guard at the Museum of Contemporary Art. In 1974, he moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to teach painting at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Fischl had his first solo show, curated by Bruce W. Ferguson, at Dalhousie Art Gallery in Nova Scotia in 1975 before relocating to New York City in 1978.

Fischl's suburban upbringing provided him with a backdrop of alcoholism and a country club culture obsessed with image over content. His early work thus became focused on the rift between what was experienced and what could not be said. His first New York City solo show was at Edward Thorp Gallery in 1979, during a time when suburbia was not considered a legitimate genre for art. He first received critical attention for depicting the dark, disturbing undercurrents of mainstream American life.

Fischl's paintings, sculptures, drawings and prints have been the subject of numerous solo and major group exhibitions and his work is represented in many museums, as well as prestigious private and corporate collections, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, The Museum of Modern Art in New York City, The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, St. Louis Art Museum, Louisiana Museum of Art in Denmark, Musée Beaubourg in Paris, The Paine Webber Collection, and many others. Fischl has collaborated with other artists and authors, including E.L. Doctorow, Allen Ginsberg, Jamaica Kincaid, Jerry Saltz and Frederic Tuten.

Eric Fischl is also the founder, President and lead curator for *America: Now and Here*. This multi-disciplinary exhibition of 150 of some of America's most celebrated visual artists, musicians, poets, playwrights, and filmmakers is designed to spark a national conversation about American identity through the arts. The project launched on May 5th, 2011 in Kansas City before traveling to Detroit and Chicago.

Eric Fischl is a Fellow at both the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Science. He lives and works in Sag Harbor, NY with his wife, the painter April Gornik.

Founded by art patron **Glenn Fuhrman**, **The FLAG Art Foundation** is a non-profit contemporary arts institution that opened to the public in 2008. Its state-of-the-art exhibition space was designed by noted architect **Richard Gluckman**. FLAG organizes 4 to 6 exhibitions a year, each with a different curator. Past curators have included **Chuck Close**, **Lisa Dennison**, **Prabal Gurung**, **Jim Hodges**, **Shaquille O'Neal**, **Linda Yablonsky**, among others. To date, FLAG has hosted over **30** curated exhibitions, providing a platform for **378** established and emerging artists representing over **25** countries.

Our objective is to encourage the appreciation of contemporary art among a diverse audience. FLAG provides a unique educational environment in which visitors can view, contemplate, and engage in active dialogue with the artworks. Curators select and borrow from a variety of sources to include a wide range of work in each exhibition. FLAG is also a resource that facilitates loans of contemporary artworks to museums around the world. An extensive database of available works is maintained and made available to curators.