

# JENNY'S

Linda Stark  
*Painted Ladies*  
January 14 – February 25, 2017

Jenny's is pleased to present *Painted Ladies*, an exhibition of works on paper and oil paintings by Los Angeles based artist Linda Stark. Throughout her practice, Stark investigates esoteric, feminist, and Pop ideas which are layered in meaning, often springing from an autobiographical perspective, and frequently inspired by everyday objects and paradigms. Included in the exhibition are nine small-scale works on paper from 2012 - 2016, many on view for the first time, which employ the element of paint and utilize a variety of media including graphite, pastel, watercolor, gouache, acrylic, and perforation. Stark's distinctive painting technique, involving incremental application and manipulation of paint over an extended time period to build a highly textured surface, is evident in the works *Coat of Arms* (1991) and *Fixed Wave* (2011). The inclusion of these two seminal paintings underscores the thematic origination and development of the accompanying works on paper, and provides a window onto Stark's unique alignment of concept and process.

By definition, the term "Painted Ladies" can refer to Victorian houses with colorful trim, butterflies, and women of the night. While the exhibition title makes a literal reference to painting as a medium, Stark's paintings and drawings frequently focus on a range of female archetypes, equally alluring and disturbing, with inquiries into the mysterious and a woman's relationship with nature. In one of her recurring characters, the Bearded Lady, Stark incorporates the heraldic form of the female reproductive system, reminiscent of a horned animal with ovaries for eyes. This image references her iconic painting *Coat of Arms* (1991), which is intended as a woman's crest in place of a symbol based on patriarchal genealogy, and is inspired by a diagram from the influential book "Our Bodies Ourselves." Other characters in the exhibition include a mermaid, a feminist, a black widow's web, a star-crossed yoni, and self-portraits as a snake and a pair of crying eyes. Stark's drawings and paintings operate as metaphors for charged states, often culled from her own lived experience, but revealing broader themes of a social, human nature.

Linda Stark lives and works in Los Angeles. She received a B.A. from University of California, Davis (1978) and an M.F.A. from University of California, Irvine (1985). Her work has been widely exhibited in museums and institutions including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; UC Berkeley Art Museum / Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA; Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA; Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT; Site Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM; Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY; Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA; and Pasadena Museum of California Art, CA. Recent group exhibitions include *Forms of Identity*, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA (2017); *The Ocular Bowl*, Kayne Griffin Corcoran, Los Angeles, CA (2016), and *Urbanature*, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA (2016). She is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artist Fellowships, a California Arts Council Fellowship, a COLA Visual Artist Fellowship, and a California Community Foundation Fellowship.