

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PICNIC AT SUNSET by Ashley Norwood Cooper

ZINC contemporary | Seattle

Exhibit dates: March 4 - April 24, 2021

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PICNIC AT SUNSET
Ashley Norwood Cooper
76 x 72", oil on linen

ZINC contemporary is pleased to announce a major upcoming exhibition with New York-based artist Ashley Norwood Cooper, *PICNIC AT SUNSET*. Her large-scale figurative oil paintings illuminate the tender-hearted vaudeville of domesticity, motherhood, and humanity, through the heroic lens of the ordinary.

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Within this new series, Norwood Cooper attempts to disentangle the uncertainty embedded in our socially isolated reality, correlating this time in history with the tenuous space that occurs at the edge of the wood, with imagined figures like crones and witches, both healing and dangerous. The vultures that circle over the rural New York village where she lives, served as the impetus for her new work, as she found herself isolated in their shadows.

"I started to realize that artists are like vultures, inhabiting the liminal spaces, watching everything with their beady eyes. We seek out the dead and dying meanings and break them down to create fertile ground for new things to grow."



"Am I just another crazy old bird, with a pink head and beady eyes, trying to survive in a world I don't understand? Here at sunset, at the edge of the woods, the shadows grow long, borders blur, paint drips, and I'm not sure anymore." - Ashley Norwood Cooper

She openly jests at the dichotomy between technology and nature, during this new epoch of reliance on tools like Zoom, while being drawn to natural spaces and interior habitats filled with plants in search of wonder and connection. Butterflies, bees, bunnies, and insects reflect the nostalgia of childhood, as she investigates familiar themes in her work: shared memory, family, and the domestic experience.

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Last spring, at the onset of the pandemic, Norwood Cooper exhibited with ZINC contemporary at VOLTA NYC Art Fair 2020, receiving a glowing review from Jillian Steinhauer of The New York Times, *"I would be remiss if I didn't mention one figurative painter here: Ashley Norwood Cooper, with ZINC. In high-key color, Ms. Cooper renders intimate scenes of women who seem immersed in their interior lives and creativity (always with cats at hand). Tender and funny the works stopped me in my tracks."* Her exhibit was followed by a highly visited virtual exhibition with London-based art dealer Taymour Grahne, entitled DOMICILE.

Ashley Norwood Cooper has exhibited her paintings in solo and group shows around the United States. Previous exhibitions at ZINC Contemporary include a two-person exhibition in 2018 entitled COLOR COLOR. She has also exhibited at First Street Gallery, Art Garage in Cooperstown, NY, the College of William and Mary, Silvermine Arts Center, Bennington Museum of Art, SUNY Oneonta, Earlville Opera House, Santa Clara University. Her work has been featured in "New American Paintings: Northeast Edition, 2019," the "I Like Your Work Podcast," Art Spiel, and Arcade Project Zine at Columbia University, among other publications. She holds an MFA from Indiana University. The artist lives with her family in Cooperstown, NY.

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About ZINC contemporary:

ZINC contemporary, founded and curated by artist and entrepreneur Laura Zeck, represents emerging and mid-career artists from the PNW and beyond. With a mission to make women in the art world both visible and successful, the team at ZINC believes that if more work by women was shown, it would spark conversations, embolden other women, and fuel new connections in our minds that can spur essential change in this world. ZINC is working to break down stigmas in the art world, welcoming curiosity, discovery, and change. Join us!

View additional works at ZINCcontemporary.com

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Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 – 5pm and by appointment

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