

BERNARDUCCI.MEISEL.GALLERY

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ESTER CURINI

ENDANGERED

2 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2017

OPENING RECEPTION, THURSDAY 2 MARCH, 5 – 7 PM

Bernarducci Meisel Gallery is pleased to present *Endangered*, **Ester Curini's** third solo exhibition of new paintings. This exhibition includes monumental portraits of endangered wolves presented on white backgrounds. Curini frequently travels to the Wolf Conservation Center in Salem, New York to get a sense of their Ambassador Wolves' unique personalities, way of life, and surroundings. The documentation of these unsuspecting models is the source material for her paintings.

The level of meticulousness and skill in Curini's paintings is undeniable. She patiently builds up layer upon layer of paint until a distilled and accurate resolution is conceived. Individual strands of hair are painted one at a time. The color and texture is matched perfectly to her reference and memory of time spent with each wolf. The result is a flawless realistic representation of these humane and charming creatures.

Curini's goal is to connect the urban population with nature. She hopes that these paintings have the power to connect the public with these wolves and bring awareness to their status as endangered species. Curini has felt a special connection with wolves her entire life. Her frequent visits to the Wolf Conservation Center has been a life-changing experience. She deeply appreciates and admires the Center's mission to educate people and new generations about wolves and how essential they are in our ecosystem.

I Was Wild. They Named Me OR-4" (2016-2017) is a portrait of the only wolf Curini painted that was not located at the Wolf Conservation Center. OR-4 was the Alpha Male of the Imnaha pack in Oregon. This wild wolf was tragically shot and killed. At six feet high, the larger than life wolf looms over the viewer, stalking us like prey. Its eyes are intense and captivating. However, Curini, with her compassionate eye, succeeds in bringing out the gentle nature of this carnivorous beast who now rests in peace.

This is Ester Curini's third solo exhibition with the Gallery. Her first in 2012, entitled "Eye to Eye" was part of the BMG First Look program. Following its success, the Gallery took Curini on as a represented artist. Her work was recently included in group exhibitions at The Ringling College of Art, Proto Gallery, and Lemmerman Gallery. Her work has been reviewed in *American Art Collector Magazine*, *Herald-Tribune*, and *Wall Street International*.

For further information or images please contact Leah Guadagnoli at leah@meisलगallery.com or (212) 593-3757. Viewing hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10:00am to 5:30pm.