



Exhibition Explores the Inverse of the Landscape
In My Room: Artists Paint the Interior 1950-Now opens May 18, 2018

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – The Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia presents *In My Room: Artists Paint the Interior 1950-Now*, May 18-Sept. 30, 2018. The exhibition looks at the inverse of the landscape: the interior.

Landscape painting, a common genre in western painting, is understood as a window onto the world thanks to artist and theorist Leon Battista Alberti and his ideas about the picture plane known as *Alberti's Window*. After the Industrial Revolution, however, modern art erupted with the interior. Notably, modern artists began depicting windows into other rooms instead of painting views of the outside world.

“The interior space has an ability to prompt the viewer to ask questions and to view a space with new perspective,” said Matthew McLendon, director and chief curator of the Fralin Museum of Art. “In an untitled work by Alex Katz, for example, a bed in disarray invites the questions whether someone has left in a rush, to where and why? *Interior with Doorway* by Richard Diebenkorn uses light and shadow in juxtaposition creating a sculptural feel to everyday objects.”

Artists continued to paint indoor spaces throughout the 20th century for a variety of psychological, interpersonal and biographical reasons. Architecture, design and the still-life inform the paintings in this exhibition, as does the persistent theme of the artist’s studio. The exhibition raises myriad questions upon which to reflect and will address how representations of interior spaces have changed and evolved over time. Also of interest is the question of whether social and political events in the world at large affect representations of a space, or whether the presentation of space is more indicative of the artist’s mind or state-of-mind.

“Interior spaces, unpeopled, allow us to imagine our own physical bodies in the space,” said Rebecca Schoenthal, exhibition co-curator. “We are allowed an opportunity to have both an emotional and intellectual response while looking at the space; perhaps revealing more about the viewer than the painter.”

The exhibition is co-curated by Rebecca Schoenthal, Ph.D., and Ryan Steadman, former art critic at the New York Observer and visual artist. The exhibition will be comprised of loaned

paintings and a selection of works from the Fralin Museum of Art collection, and will be accompanied by a booklet with essays by the curators and reproductions of select images.

About The Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia

Established in 1935, the University of Virginia Art Museum became The Fralin Museum of Art in 2012, in honor of a bequest of American art and service to the University by Cynthia and W. Heywood Fralin. The Museum maintains a collection of nearly 14,000 works of art, including American and European painting, works on paper and sculpture from the 15th through the 20th centuries; art from the ancient Mediterranean; Asian art; and Native American art. Housed in the historic Bayly Building near the Rotunda on the landmark UVA Grounds, The Fralin is dedicated to serving the widest possible audiences and engaging comprehensive visual education to enhance its visitors' understanding of world cultures. Throughout the year the Museum presents a diverse selection of exhibitions, programs, research and events that bring the University and broader community together.

For more information, visit <http://uvafralinartmuseum.virginia.edu>.

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