

DUNCAN HANNAH

April 8 – May 26, 2018

Parker Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of paintings by Duncan Hannah. The exhibition celebrates the release of his book, *Twentieth-Century Boy: Notebooks of the Seventies*, published by Knopf. Where *Notebooks of the Seventies* chronicles the youthful indiscretions of an art student caught up in the debauchery of Downtown New York, the exhibition by contrast focuses on Hannah's anachronistic aesthetic. A proficient painter working in a descriptive and representational style, one would expect Hannah to have been more of a fixture at the National Arts Club than Max's Kansas City.

The exhibition opens with *Drunk*, a full figure self-portrait from 1976, and covers the spectrum of subjects that have become trademark Hannah: clandestine encounters, European automobiles, Art Deco cinemas, film noir, nudes, fighter planes and literary heroes. The exhibition includes one work, *The Waiting* (1980), from his debut solo show at the Stefanotti Gallery in 1981.

Remarkable in Hannah's oeuvre is an unwavering commitment to a narrative style of painting reminiscent of Edward Hopper and Walter Sickert. His canvases act as cinematic tableaux of an idyllic world where a touring car whisks Lee Remick away for a countryside picnic, returning in time for the Truffaut double-feature. In Hannah's halcyon world, the mood is often tainted with a touch of intrigue. *Fireflies* (2012) depicts a young boy examining a glass jar, presumably containing the titular subject, yet the expression on the face of his companion gives pause. *The Shipwreck Boys in Yorkshire* (2006) anticipates a derring-do Hardy Boys mystery and instead delivers a seemingly innocent game of cricket. Paradise lost is found again in Duncan Hannah.

Duncan Hannah (b. 1952 in Minneapolis, MN, lives and works in Brooklyn, NY). Selected solo exhibitions include *Adrift in the 20th Century*, Invisible-Exports, New York, NY (2017), Half Gallery, New York, NY (2011), Tibor de Nagy, New York, NY (1995-97), John Oulman Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (1988-98), Charles Cowles Gallery, New York, NY (1991), Phyllis Kind Gallery, Chicago, IL (1988-89), Modernism, San Francisco, CA (1984-2015), Semaphore Gallery, New York, NY (1983-88) and Stefanotti Gallery, New York, NY (1981). Selected group exhibitions include *Club 57: Film, Performance and Art in the East Village 1978-83*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (2017), *The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene 1974-84*, Grey Art Gallery, New York, NY (traveling, 2006), *New Still Life*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (1982), *New York, New Wave*, Ps1, Long Island City, NY (1981) and *The Times Square Show*, New York, NY (1980). His work is included in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among many others.