



8th Street Poppies, 2003, Oil on canvas, 21 x 30 inches

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLY SULLIVAN

New Paintings

May 9 - June 7, 2003

Opening reception, Friday, May 9, 6 - 8 pm

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 - 6pm

Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery is pleased to present a new series of paintings by **Billy Sullivan** opening on **May 9 through June 7, 2003**.

Sullivan is best known for his vibrant, highly personal paintings and drawings chronicling his own artistic career and the social happenings of the art-world, mainly in New York from the 1970's to the present. In this new body of work, Sullivan, reveling in the physicality of paint, employs a bold palette of bright orange, cherry red and bubblegum pink. These paintings, though freer in form and color, are more structured in composition than previous works. His portraits, nudes and still lives, portraying an enviable world of ease and pleasure, have an erotic, yet innocent, quality. It is Sullivan's rare ability to make even the mundane appear extraordinary that draws the viewer into his exuberant universe.

Sullivan's still lives, with their playful use of space, bring to mind the complex compositions of Matisse and Bonnard. Using doors, windows and drapery as a proscenium, he divides the interior world of the painting with what lies beyond. His portraits succeed because his subjects become, for that time, his muses, and they are portrayed without judgment. As Peter Schjeldahl notes in his essay titled Fame Theory Sullivan "is a flaneur of his own and other people's entangling affections. Each person in one of his pictures (whether rendered by hand or with a camera) has an aura of being cared about, if not ardently cared for."

In this show, Sullivan is also exhibiting a series of calligraphic drawings of birds and other animals. Although these drawings are an ongoing project for the artist, they have not been publicly displayed in over twenty years.

Sullivan's work was most recently shown with Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery at this year's Armory show; and, in the Fall of 2002, the gallery presented a series of photographs. In the winter of 2003, Sullivan's work will be included in a show on the history of the nude at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Bologna, Italy.

For more information, please contact the gallery at:

212-243-3335 or check out our website: www.nicoleklagsbrun.com