

Natalie Frank: The Brothers Grimm
April 10–June 28, 2015

Drawing Room

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 16, 6–8pm

For further information and images, please contact
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center
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February 3, 2015



Cinderella I, 2011–4,
Gouache and chalk pastel on
paper, 22 x 30 inches (55.9 x
76.2 cm). Courtesy of the
Blanton Museum of Art, The
University of Texas at Austin;
Promised gift of Kathleen Irvin
Loughlin and Chris Loughlin

New York – The Drawing Center will present *Natalie Frank: The Brothers Grimm* in which Frank applies her visual and psychological acumen to that most evocative and misunderstood of literary forms, the fairytale—specifically the stories of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Only a few contemporary artists have worked with the fairytale genre; fewer still have systematically interrogated the complexity of these tales and the way in which they address social and sexual mores that continue to have relevance today. What Frank found upon perusing the original, unsanitized stories were eccentric narratives alive with sexuality and violence; stories in which the female characters in particular undergo vast emotional, physical, and intellectual transformations.

Natalie Frank: The Brothers Grimm will present twenty-nine drawings out of a total of seventy-five images dealing with thirty-six tales. The drawings are executed in gouache and chalk pastel—the first time that Frank has worked exclusively in this medium—producing both gritty and luminous surface effects. Engaging the intersection between body and mind, reality and fantasy, the series can be seen as a contemporary, feminist reimagining of a symbolist legacy. Laminated transcriptions of the stories depicted will be available for perusal. Curated by Claire Gilman, Curator. *Natalie Frank: The Brothers Grimm* will also be on view from July 11–November 15, 2015 at the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin.

Since completing her M.F.A. at Columbia University in 2006, Natalie Frank has been making a name for herself with energetic, visceral paintings that boldly embrace the liminal space between figuration and abstraction. A virtuoso painter and draftswoman, Frank is unique among her peers in her willingness to employ traditional mediums in the service of taboo themes. Focusing on the

dialogue between flesh and spirit, the artist explores, in her own words, the parallel poles of “longing and desire but also disgust and fascination” that constitute humanity.

ABOUT NATALIE FRANK

New York-based painter Natalie Frank was born in Austin, Texas in 1980. She earned an M.F.A. in visual arts at Columbia University’s School of the Arts in 2006 and holds a B.A. in studio art from Yale University. In 2003-2004, she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for study at the National Academy of Fine Art in Oslo, Norway. She has had solo exhibitions at Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago; ACME, Los Angeles; Arndt and Partner, Zurich; and Mitchell-Innes and Nash, New York. Selected group exhibitions include Istanbul74, Turkey; The London Museum of Design, UK; Hezi Cohen Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel; and Jack Tilton Gallery, New York.

Frank's work is represented in numerous collections, including Ackland Art Museum, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin; The Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY; Mills College Art Museum, Oakland, CA; Montclair Art Museum, NJ; The Rose Art Museum, Waltham, MA; The Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC; The Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY; and Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA. Her work has been covered in national and international publications and media outlets such as Art in America; Art Review; Artnet News; BOMB; Flash Art; The Huffington Post; The Los Angeles Times; Modern Painters; New York Magazine; The New York Times; The New Yorker; and The Wall Street Journal.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Thursday, April 30, 7–9pm at the Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY. Present your receipt from your visit to the Drawing Center exhibition for free admission.

The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center at The Brooklyn Museum will host an evening with Natalie Frank and guests. A panel discussion about fairy tales, sexuality, Feminism, and Frank’s recent work will feature the artist, Drawing Center Curator Claire Gilman, renowned art historian Linda Nochlin, and fairy tale expert Jack Zipes. Readings of select Grimm’s tales will follow the panel. Readers include Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Michael Cunningham, legendary choreographer Bill T. Jones, and acclaimed essayist and feminist sage Ariel Levy. After the program, the artist will be on-hand to sign copies of her newly published book *Tales of the Brothers Grimm*, published by Damiani and distributed by DAP.

PUBLICATION

Coinciding with the exhibition at The Drawing Center, *Tales of the Brothers Grimm*, a 270-page fully illustrated hardcover book, will be published by Damiani, and distributed by DAP. In it,

thirty-six celebrated and lesser-known Grimm's tales selected by Natalie Frank are pictorially re-interpreted by the artist and set in a Surrealist dreamscape. The foremost Grimm scholar, Jack Zipes, introduces the book and contextualizes the stories and drawings within a history of the Brothers Grimm, Grimm illustrations, and the fairy tale tradition. Additional texts include a conversation between the artist and director Julie Taymor, as well as essays by feminist art historian Linda Nochlin, and curator Claire Gilman.

CREDITS

Natalie Frank: The Brothers Grimm is made possible by the support of The Evelyn Toll Family Foundation, Merrill Mahan, Stephanie Ingrassia, Sarah Peter, Kim Manocherian, Irwin Gold, and Liz Parks.

Special thanks to Rhona Hoffman Gallery and Acme.

ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

35 Wooster Street between Broome and Grand Streets in SoHo, New York.
Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.
Tickets: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

FACEBOOK: [The Drawing Center](#)

TWITTER: [twitter.com/drawingcenter](#)

TUMBLR: [the-drawing-center.tumblr.com](#)

INSTAGRAM: [instagram.com/drawingcenter](#)

AT THE DRAWING CENTER

<i>Tomi Ungerer: All in One</i>	Through March 22, 2015
<i>James Sheehan: Death of Malevich</i>	Through October 2015
<i>Portraits from the École des Beaux-Arts Paris</i>	April 10–June 28, 2015
<i>Natalie Frank: The Brothers Grimm</i>	April 10–June 28, 2015
<i>Open Sessions 3</i>	April 10–May 15, 2015
<i>Abdelkader Benchamma: Representation of Dark Matter</i>	April 10–March 2016
<i>Rachel Goodyear</i>	April 10–March 2016
<i>İnci Eviner</i>	May 29–June 28, 2015

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Images Available for Reproduction

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All Fur III, 2011–14
Gouache and chalk pastel on Arches paper
22 x 30 inches (55.9 x 76.2 cm)
Courtesy of the artist



Cinderella II, 2011–14
Gouache and chalk pastel on Arches paper,
22 x 30 inches (55.9 x 76.2 cm)
Courtesy of the Blanton Museum of Art,
The University of Texas at Austin;
Promised gift of Kathleen Irvin Loughlin
and Chris Loughlin



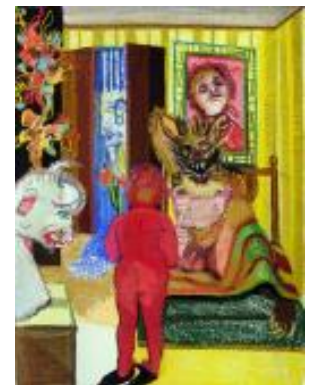
Brier Rose III, 2011–14
Gouache and chalk pastel on Arches paper
22 x 30 inches (55.9 x 76.2 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and Rhona Hoffman
Gallery (Chicago); ACME (Los Angeles)



Rapunzel I, 2011–14
Gouache and chalk pastel on Arches paper
22 x 30 inches (55.9 x 76.2 cm)
Blanton Museum of Art, The University of
Texas at Austin, Purchase through the
generosity of the Houston Endowment, Inc.
in honor of Melissa Jones



The Lettuce Donkey III, 2011–14
Gouache and chalk pastel on Arches paper
22 x 30 inches (55.9 x 76.2 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and Rhona Hoffman
Gallery (Chicago); ACME (Los Angeles)



Little Red Cap I, 2011–14
Gouache and chalk pastel on Arches paper
22 x 30 inches (55.9 x 76.2 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and Rhona Hoffman
Gallery (Chicago); ACME (Los Angeles)