

UNTITLED

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Anna Plesset

A Still Life

January 13 – February 24, 2013

UNTITLED is pleased to present Anna Plesset's first solo show in New York.

Like a minimalist tableau, *A Still Life* is a staging of the studio as a site for recovery and discovery in which the perception of familiar objects slowly changes as the limitations of material and reality dissolve.

As written in *Natural History*, Pliny the Elder's great encyclopedic work from antiquity, the two painters Zeuxis and Parrhasios staged a competition for which Zeuxis presented a painting of grapes so lifelike that it summoned birds to fly as close to the stage as possible. Proud of his accomplishment, Zeuxis demanded that Parrhasios pull back the linen curtain on his canvas to reveal his hidden painting. Upon realizing that the curtain was painted, Zeuxis conceded the contest to Parrhasios admitting that his own painting had only deceived the birds while Parrhasios had succeeded in deceiving the painter.¹

On Plesset's stage the distinctions between creator, maker, and imitator collapse as the past is grafted onto the present. The resulting space is that of a fiction – one in which the boundaries between reality and illusion are blurred and their unstable relationship to history, memory, and perception examined.

Anna Plesset (born 1977, Mt. Kisco, NY, lives and works in New York) has participated in group shows across Canada and the United States, most notably at Center on Contemporary Art in Seattle, WA (2008), Jeffrey Boone Gallery in Vancouver, Canada (2009), the Gelman Gallery at the RISD Chase Center in Providence, RI (2011) and Mixed Greens in New York, NY (2011). She is currently participating in the AIRspace residency program at the Abrons Arts Center in New York, NY and was previously a recipient of the Terra Summer Residency Fellowship in Giverny, France.

¹ Norman Bryson, *Looking at the Overlooked: Four Essays on Still Life Painting* (London: Reaktion Books Ltd, 1990), 30-32.