

# NICODIM

## *Larry Madrigal: Work / Life*

Nicodim, New York

June 18 – August 13, 2022



Larry Madrigal, *Back Massage*, 2022, oil on linen, 90.40 x 75.75 in.

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The human body is a functioning production line comprised of flesh and blood and organs that churn out our very existence. Each of our individual cells is assigned a specific role in the womb. They trigger infancy, childhood, adolescence, and so forth. These cells do their jobs until they can't, and when enough of our collective parts are unable to do their work, life ceases.

Prior to the French Revolution, communities were structured like a body. Like the cells within us, each person's lot in life was set more or less in stone before they were born, and humans procreated to supply the community with more people to fulfill their roles when they perished. Then the traditional cells within the community refused to comply with their pre-assigned work, and the old-world system faltered and died. People moved to cities en masse. The transition from *Gesellschaft* to *Gemeinschaft* made it easier for people to improve their stations in life, but it also meant that each of our bodies were no longer necessary for the whole of society to function. Suddenly, your life, your work could be completely unnecessary. Without an assigned role, it is possible to have no role at all. We can fall through the cracks without anyone noticing.

Over the course of creating *Work / Life*, Larry Madrigal's third solo exhibition with Nicodim, the artist and his wife conceived their second child. He watched his wife's body change while his pretty-much stayed the same. She is a *mother*, he is still Larry. This body of work is the artist's negotiation of his predetermined biological roles and his place in society, for which there is no longer a blueprint or safety net. He thrives in arguments between stubborn flesh, which refuses to behave in a manner other than it was designed, and the chaos of contemporary life: the way there's no great place for him to view his wife's sonogram in the doctor's office; the way to make time for sex with a young daughter and a pregnant wife; the way the way his belly folds in a post-coital viewing of *The Bachelorette*. *Work / Life* is the artist's celebration of the struggle to carve out a stable community for his and his family's bodies in a world that doesn't always care or listen.

**Larry Madrigal** (b. 1986, Los Angeles) lives and works in Phoenix, Arizona. Madrigal recently completed his MFA at Arizona State University in Tempe. His paintings are a suspension and celebration of the precariousness by which our most mundane daily rituals are balanced on a precipice just above total anarchy. Recent exhibitions include *Larry Madrigal: How Dare We Now Live*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2021; solo), *Larry Madrigal: Scattered Daydream*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2020, solo); *When You Waked Up the Buffalo*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2020); *Painting the Figure Now II*, Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art, Wasau, Wisconsin (2019); New Art Arizona, Shemer Art Center and Museum, Phoenix, Arizona (2019); and *Body Language: Figuration in Modern and Contemporary Art*, curated by Julie Sasse, Tuscon Museum of Art, Tuscon, Arizona (2017).

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## Larry Madrigal

° Born 1986, Los Angeles, United States

Lives and works in Phoenix, Arizona

### Education

2020 MFA, Painting, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

2013 BFA, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

### Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

2022 *Work / Life*, Nicodim, New York

2021 *How Dare We Now Live*, Nicodim, Los Angeles

2020 *Larry Madrigal: Scattered Daydream*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles

*Tightrope: MFA Thesis Exhibition*, Harry Wood Gallery, Arizona State University, Tempe

2017 *Eyes on Us: Larry Madrigal and Tyler Griese*, New City Studio, Phoenix

2016 *Larry Madrigal: Works on Paper*, Phoenix Institute of Contemporary Art Container Galleries, Phoenix

### Selected Group Exhibitions

2020 *When You Waked Up the Buffalo*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles

*New Beginnings...*, Nicodim Gallery (Online Exhibition), Los Angeles

*Life Still*, Jonathan Travis (Online Exhibition), New York

2019 *Painting The Figure Now II*, Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art, Wausau

*The Body Politic*, Mesa Community College, Mesa

*11th Annual National Juried Exhibition*, Prince Street Gallery, New York

2018 *Expulsion*, Fine Art Complex, Tempe

*Olio*, Eric Fischl Gallery, Phoenix

*XL Catlin Art Prize Traveling Exhibition*, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco;

Linda Warren Gallery, Chicago; The New York Academy of Art, New York

*Bridged: Creando Puentes*, Mas Arte Galería, Quito

2017 *Body Language: Figuration in Modern and Contemporary Art*, Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, (curated by Julie Sasse, Chief Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Tucson Museum of Art)

*Art From Art*, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati

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*32nd Annual International Exhibition*, Meadows Gallery, University of Texas, Tyler  
*22nd Annual Arts in Harmony International Exhibition*, Blaine City Hall, Blaine

2016 *Soup du Jour*, The Liquor Gallery, Tempe

2015 *Contemporary Forum Grant Winners Exhibition*, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix

2014 *Perceived Reality: The Art of the Self Portrait*, New City Studio, Phoenix

*Peace of Mind*, Oblique Gallery, Phoenix

*Chaos Theory 15*, Legend City Studios, Phoenix

2013 *Entitled*, Herberger Theatre Art Gallery, Phoenix

*Arizona Biennial*, Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson

*Figurative Art Now*, Shemer Art Center and Museum, Phoenix

## **Selected Public and Private Collections**

Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, Miami

Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson