Fountain House Gallery Presents “Water”
Group Show Explores an Elemental Force of Nature

On view: July 29 – August 25, 2021/Reception: July 29, 6-8 pm

NEW YORK CITY – Fountain House Gallery – the premier venue in New York City representing artists with mental illness – announces the upcoming group show Water, the first “in-person” event to be presented at the Gallery since before the pandemic. The show will open with a Reception on July 29, 2021, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, and will remain on view through August 25, 2021. Until further notice, face coverings are required for entry to the Gallery.

The element of water can be friend or foe – manifesting in forms ranging from tranquil streams to terrifying tsunamis – and it demonstrates its power by its absence as well as its presence. As locales around the world, including parts of the United States, experience severe droughts, Europe has recently been ravaged by deadly floods, and experts warn of a global water crisis to come. For this show, the artists of Fountain House Gallery have created more than 30 works in exploration of the mystery and majesty of this elemental force.

The exhibition is curated by Fountain House Gallery artist Eva Tortora, who said, “This show is a celebration of the beautiful and magical substance that is water. I sought other artists’ perspectives on this natural element and was eager to see how depictions of water would travel across the canvas and how it would look when expressed in other materials and mediums. Water sustains us and changes form and color as it shimmers in the light, and it’s no wonder that water-inspired themes have attracted the interest of artists through the ages. I cherish this breathtaking force of nature and salute the Fountain House Gallery artists whose works illuminate it and provide a moment to be still in contemplation of it.”

Among the art mediums represented in the exhibition are acrylic, oil, and watercolor paintings, fiber and mixed media works, sculpture, and photography. Alyson Vega’s fabric and fiber piece, The Beach, offers a textured, serene depiction of sea, sand and sky. Laurel Burns’s Waves, an acrylic paint collage on canvas, presents choppy, blue and green surf with gold-dappled sky above. Susan Spangenberg’s large-scale Mermaid portrays this creature of myth and folklore in charcoal and acrylic on unstretched canvas; in Elizabeth Borisov’s Sea Beauty, the mermaid is depicted on a more intimate scale, in rich hues of acrylic on canvas. Sally Fisher’s digital photograph, City Life, features a seahorse suspended in an outdoor tank at Hudson River Park’s Pier 40, with urban skyline visible in the background.
This program is funded, in part, by generous support from the Renate, Hans and Maria Hofmann Trust, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, the David Rockefeller Fund, and the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund.

**About Fountain House Gallery**
Fountain House Gallery and Studio provides an environment where artists living with mental illness can express their creative visions and exhibit their work. Founded by Fountain House in 2000, the storefront Gallery in Manhattan sells original artworks and collaborates with a wide network of artists, curators and cultural institutions. The Studio, located in Long Island City, is a collaborative workspace that furthers the professional practice of our artists. Embracing artists who are emerging or established, trained or self-taught, Fountain House Gallery cultivates artistic growth, makes a vital contribution to the New York arts community, and challenges the stigma surrounding mental illness.

**Fountain House Gallery**
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702 Ninth Avenue at 48th Street
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Summer Hours: Tues.-Sat. 12-6

*More than a gallery. A movement.*

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