



ANNE BUCKWALTER REPEATING X

January 28 – March 13, 2020

 ALBRIGHT
1856 *Freedman Gallery*



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In itself, the title *Repeating X* suggests a number of meanings for the 14 gouaches and two woodcuts on exhibit. Created by Philadelphia artist Anne Buckwalter, these dynamic yet delicate works on paper are focused on the identity, or purpose if you like, of women's existence in today's segregated and often misogynist geo-political sphere.

right with a ladder projecting upward from the hole's depth. A possible reference to things beneath the surface, the imagery and the colors are pleasant but the subject matter is subtly left to conjecture.

The bed, another recurring motif, is the artist's symbol for intersection, where everything joins. For instance, "Shut Eye" depicts an oversized, impossibly large bed and headboard. The adult figure and an amorphous form, a cat maybe, lie in repose and appear small as infants while the quilt patterns compositionally respond to the other paintings by boasting the ubiquitous X pattern and nearly absorbing its occupants.

A separate but conjoining series titled *Vorschriften* is influenced by historic Pennsylvania Dutch writing exercises of the same name. This invented language, through the use of a pictographic alphabet to spell out certain words and phrases, translates intimate details that women have about their bodies, particularly details that are uncomfortable or confusing. Like a visual glyph, these details float like islands on the pure white surfaces of paper, seemingly pasted on, collage-like, combined symbolically into abstruse juxtapositions.

A framed sheet of text hangs between two pictographs, "Little Bo Peep" and "Little Jack Horner." As both of the works are block prints consisting of foggy, heavily printed type fonts, the sheet acts as an alphabet key, or legend, spelling out the beginning of the classic nursery rhymes in decrypt language. By using the same key this alphabet also spells out in image form other pieces within the *Vorschriften* series. Although a couple of them are untitled, the imagery of naked shame, remorse and isolation is very apparent in representations of women with their backs to the viewer, or in one piece where a woman buries her face in her hands.

Widely exhibited, her work has been published in such periodicals as *Create Magazine*, *The Jealous Curator*, and *Field Magazine*. She has exhibited in Boston, Montreal, Toronto, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, New York, and Rome. She currently lives and works in Philadelphia.

Buckwalter adapts her Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry to investigate feminine identity and sexuality along with the coexistence of contradictions. Her paintings arrange disparate objects and mysterious figures in ambiguous spaces and obscure narratives that embrace paradox as a means of examining how gender-related expectations are manifest in the manner we live. The exhibition's title *Repeating X* while not only responding to the quilt's crisscross patterning, may also be conjectured to infer the double X female chromosome in the DNA helix and the idea of something more profound, such as the value of all women.

The Freedman Gallery at Albright College, named after former Albright trustee and alumna **Doris Chanin Freedman**, is located on the ground floor of the **Center for the Arts**. Since its inception, the gallery focuses primarily on contemporary, living, American artists and hosts approximately 12 exhibitions each year rotating in the Main Gallery, Project Space and Foyer Gallery. Freedman Gallery is located at 13th & Bern Streets, Reading, PA 19612. Gallery hours are Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 1-4 p.m. The gallery is closed on Mondays, holidays, breaks and summer. **(See Albright.edu/calendar).**

Founded in 1856, Albright College is a diverse community of learners cultivating integrity, curiosity, connection and resilience. The college's flexible curriculum encourages students to combine and cross majors to create individualized academic programs. Close faculty mentorship and numerous experiential learning options create opportunities for Albright graduates to exceed their own expectations. Located in Reading, Pa., Albright enrolls more than 1,700 full-time undergraduates, adult learners and graduate students.

Follow the CFA and artist Anne Buckwalter on Instagram.



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Anne Buckwalter: Repeating X
Exhibited in the Project Space, Freedman Gallery, Albright College, Reading, Pa.
January 28 – March 13, 2020

Installation curated by Alana J. Coates. Essay written by Ron Schira.
Ron Schira is a contemporary art critic based in Reading, Pa.

This project is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Funding for this project was awarded through the Berks Arts Council, a Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts regrantee program, for its special Celebration of Women in the Arts program. This project was supported by additional funding from annual donors to Albright College's Center for the Arts and the Freedman Gallery.

The Celebration of Women is a citywide event sparked by the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage and is organized by the Reading Symphony Orchestra. Participating partners include: Reading Symphony Orchestra, The Bennett Prize, Reading Public Museum, GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Reading FilmFest, Reading Public Library, Miller Center for the Arts, Reading Area Community College, Berks History Center, and the Freedman Gallery at Albright College.

The artist would like to extend special thanks to the Joan Mitchell Foundation for generously supporting the framing costs for the works included in this exhibition.



Cover Image: *Feverfew*, 2019, gouache on paper, 22 x 15.25 inches.
Inside Image: *Communion*, 2018, gouache on paper, 22 x 29.75 inches.