

PRESS RELEASE

HAWK + HIVE



**BRIAN
CIRMO**

**FUNNY FEELING
AT HAWK + HIVE**

APRIL 12 - MAY 11, 2025

**OPENING RECEPTION
APRIL 12, 2PM - 6PM**

**WWW.HAWKANDHIVE.COM
61 MAIN STREET, ANDES, NY 13731**

The works in Brian Cirimo's exhibition *Funny Feeling* at Hawk + Hive, vibrate with the kind of charged ambivalence that makes everyday life curiously electric—part comedy, part existential angst, **teetering on the brink of some potential revelation or calamity**. His 28 oil paintings introduce a peculiar cast of stylized human figures, in both domestic and outdoor scenes, that blend the commonplace with the uncanny. They read like visual short stories, illuminating the oddity of human existence; witty, unsettling and **surprisingly poignant**.



All Star



Realm



Run

Cirimo's figures often seem caught in a **state of introspective confusion**, their large, heavily lidded eyes and exaggerated forms are certainly cartoonish but there is more to them than slapstick or satire. These are characters navigating complex emotional landscapes marked by alienation, intimacy (or perhaps the lack of it), and melancholic reflection. In *Cloud*, a soulful character is submerged neck-deep in water gazing back at the land, a forlorn-looking chihuahua bobbing beside her. *Daisy* presents a grotesque—but strangely lovable—disembodied head, positioned absurdly beside a tiny flower. In several paintings figures are curled into vulnerable, fetal-like postures beneath tables or within confined spaces. In *Back-To-Back* two figures lie facing away from one another, seemingly lost in their individual dreams, while an elongated tabby slinks beneath the bed. These narratives are highly ambiguous but there's a looming sense that all may not be well. Despite this underlying unease, there is a gentleness in the works that suggest the artist is empathetic to the private anxieties of his cast.



Cloud



Back-To-Back

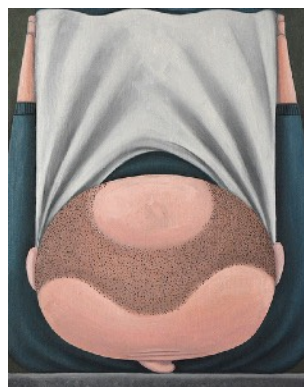


Daisy

Deciding upon a title for this exhibition, Cirimo spent time looking at the collection, and concluded that each of his characters emanated a "funny feeling" — **that intuitive moment of recognition when something feels slightly off-kilter**. His work deftly captures that moment, when humor gives way to something more profound—a recognition of our collective fragility and perhaps resilience. The works in *Funny Feeling* embrace the weirdness of being human. With playful precision, Cirimo constructs narratives that are at once amusing, curious, and deeply relatable, inviting viewers to recognize themselves and the people they know.



Still-Life



Hero



Roundabout



Egg Moon

Brian Cirmo is an internationally exhibiting artist and a 2023 recipient of the Lillian Orlowsky and William Freed Foundation Grant for American painters from the Provincetown Art Association and Museum. Solo exhibitions include *Where Teardrops Fall*, 532 Gallery Thomas Jaeckel, New York, NY; *Paintings*, Lake George Arts Project, Lake George, NY; *Doldrums*, the Burrell Roberts Triangle Gallery, Sinclair College in Dayton, OH; *Black*, the Rice Gallery, McDaniel College, Westminster, MD, and *Patterns, Cycles, and Change*, Wilson Gallery, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY. Group exhibitions include GR Gallery, New York, NY; Schloss Salem, Salem, Germany; 19 Karen Gallery, Mermaid Beach QLD, Australia; Mills Gallery, Boston Center for the Arts in Boston, MA; The Hyde Collection Museum in Glens Falls, NY; Kellogg Gallery, Cal Poly University in Pomona, CA; and Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA.

Cirmo's work has been featured in numerous art fairs including, CONTEXT Art Miami, Pinta Miami, and Aspen Art. Artist Residencies include the Saltonstall Foundation, Lake Constance Cultural Department, Salem, Germany, The Vermont Studio Center, Salem Art Works, and the Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency. Publications include Vast Magazine, Lunch Ticket Magazine, the Matador Review, and Studio Visit Magazine. Curated exhibitions include *Our Heads and Masters of War* at Albany Center Gallery; *Abstract /'kelCHer/*, OCC Art Gallery, SUNY Onondaga, Syracuse NY, and *The Roaring Twenties*, Joyce Goldstein Gallery, Chatham, NY.

Cirmo was born in Utica, NY. He has an M.F.A. from the State University of New York at Albany. He lives and works in Albany, NY, and teaches at Pratt Munson in Utica, NY.

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Full catalogue essay, images with details & CV available on our website at this link:
<https://www.hawkandhive.com/brian-cirmo>

Funny Feeling opens April 12th, with a reception from 2pm - 6pm
Show Dates: April 12th - May 11th, 2025

Hawk + Hive is a contemporary art gallery situated in the Western Catskills.
61 Main Street, Andes, NY 13731