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NEW TAMARIND RELEASES BY ELLEN BERKENBLIT

Albuquerque, NM – Tamarind Institute will release four new lithographs by Brooklyn-based painter Ellen Berkenblit. These four new editions, and previous work, are available for purchase online at tamarind.unm.edu/artist/ellen-berkenblit/. The local public is encouraged to email tamarind@unm.edu to schedule an appointment for a private viewing at Tamarind.

Berkenblit had her first artist residency with Tamarind in 2003. Her early work in lithography explored a recurring cast of characters from her paintings, including a lanky female figure and an assembly of playful animals. The odd juxtapositions and empty text bubbles hint at a fantastic narrative, yet her compositions elude representation. Berkenblit adapts her figurative imagery to carry her distinctive line, infusing evocative figures and motifs with an animated presence rich with association.

Her next project with Tamarind coincided with the 2020-2021 pandemic, during which time she maintained the collaboration working remotely from her studio in Brooklyn. Over a period of several months, Berkenblit and the team of Tamarind printers sent proofs back and forth and shared ideas about the interaction of color and the multiple layers of the prints underway. The lithographs that emerged from this distanced

collaboration feature four variations of a tightly cropped female profile, realized in an exuberant color palette and finished with glittery hair accessories. The fixed, wide-eyed gaze of each figure, staring just beyond the frame, captures the artist's expressive line and hints at the anxiety of the moment. These newly released editions, *Leopard Ribbon*, *Large Stripe Ribbon*, *Flower Hat*, and *Daisies* also carry the resiliency of the creative exchange between artist and printer to bring this work to completion.

When asked about her experience at Tamarind, Berkenblit says, "Valpuri Remling and I worked remotely throughout the pandemic until now, and through Valpuri's brilliance as a conduit /mind-reader we managed to produce four prints that have all the intimacy of an in-person collaboration. I worked from a tiny room in my home at the time, and the large format of the mylars I used made everything feel maxed-out in the best way."

"My inspiration and touchstone throughout the project was the short film of dancer Loie Fuller — a black and white film from 1905 that was hand-tinted in Sulphur-y yellows, pale lavenders and faded pinks." The film can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dda-BXNvVkQ>

Berkenblit received her BFA from Cooper Union in 1980. She was a Guggenheim fellow in 2014. In 2019 she created *Leopard's Lane*, a site-specific mural for the MCA Chicago's Atrium Project. Recent solo exhibitions include the Drawing Center, New York; Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels; Anton Kern Gallery, New York; and Vielmetter, Los Angeles. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others.

Berkenblit is represented by Anton Kern Gallery, New York and Vielmetter, Los Angeles.

Tamarind Institute is an internationally recognized fine art lithography workshop affiliated with the College of Fine Arts at The University of New Mexico. Tamarind is dedicated to the preservation and advancement of lithography through education, research, exhibitions, and artist residencies, and is credited with introducing collaborative printmaking among contemporary artists around the world. Tamarind frequently sponsors programs with diverse populations, locally and internationally, benefitting University, Albuquerque, and New Mexico constituencies.

For more information and image permissions, email sjsmith@unm.edu.

Additional images available upon request.

Large Stripe Ribbon, 2020

Six-color lithograph with glitter element
Paper Size: 29 13/16 x 39 7/8 inches
Paper Type: Antique white Somerset velvet
Collaborating Printers: Valpuri Remling, Alyssa Ebinger and Lindsey Sigmon
Edition of 20

Leopard Ribbon, 2020

Five-color lithograph with glitter elements
Paper Size: 29 13/16 x 39 7/8 inches
Paper Type: Antique white Somerset velvet
Collaborating Printers: Valpuri Remling, Alyssa Ebinger and Lindsey Sigmon
Edition of 20

Daisies, 2020

Six-color lithograph with glitter elements
Paper Size: 29 11/16 x 39 7/8 inches
Paper Type: Antique white Somerset velvet
Collaborating Printers: Valpuri Remling, Alyssa Ebinger and Lindsey Sigmon
Edition of 20

Flower Hat, 2020

Six-color lithograph with glitter elements
Paper Size: 29 1/2 x 39 7/8 inches
Paper Type: Antique white Somerset velvet
Collaborating Printers: Valpuri Remling, Alyssa Ebinger and Lindsey Sigmon
Edition of 20