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**Anna Membrino: *Views* Opens at Erin Cluley Gallery  
on Saturday January 7, 2017**

[Dallas, Texas – November 11, 2016] **ERIN CLULEY GALLERY** will open an exhibition of new paintings by Dallas-based artist **ANNA MEMBRINO** on Saturday January 7th, 2017 at 414 Fabrication Street. The exhibition will open with a reception for the artist from 6:00-8:00 pm.

Membrino's exhibition titled *Views* will feature a new body of work – paintings which hover between the canons of still life and landscape painting with a nod to abstraction. The artist sees her paintings as tableaux assembled to explore the vast possibility of perceptions when viewing very simple, invented environments. The assemblages Membrino creates contain actual plants and rocks intermingled with forgeries in the form of blank silhouettes. Each painting is inspired by one of these three-dimensional arrangements.

The natural objects in her work act as anchors in these narratives; small pieces of information that a viewer can hold onto as they decide how to inhabit each fictional scene. The artist states, "I'm interested in creating a space that hovers between still life and landscape, between a real location and a surreal invention. Each shape, plant or ray of toned light serve as characters in the vignettes testing the viewers ability to experience a place with very little understanding of its scale or authenticity."

This body of work was inspired by Membrino's interest in the visual effect of nature on the brain. Research has long shown that being around trees and flowers produces an endorphin response in our brains. A recent *New York Times* article cited research showing that images of nature can produce the same response. The paintings in *Views* are a response to this notion – as our access to unadulterated nature becomes more difficult to come by, Membrino finds relief in knowing that, though they are only surrogates, our brains can find solace in images of nature.

**About Anna Membrino**

Born in Maryland, 1986.

Anna Membrino holds an MFA from Southern Methodist University and a BA and BFA from The University of North Florida. She has also studied at The Rhode Island School of Design and Parsons at The New School.

Membrino has been awarded residencies at Can Serrat in El Bruc, Spain; Sanskriti Foundation in New Delhi, India; and Radius Workshops in Grambois, France.

Her work has been shown in California and Texas.

**About Erin Cluley Gallery**

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging and mid-career artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery will present a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

The 2000 square foot space joined a creative movement in the Trinity Groves development at the foot of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge in West Dallas. Erin Cluley Gallery has been in operation since 2014.

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