

The Way The Lamp

Gerda Scheepers

19.11.2021 – 15.01.2022

With Gerda Scheepers' (*1979) exhibition *The Way The Lamp*, ak contemporary presents the first solo exhibition of the artist at the gallery.

Gerda Scheepers takes a new direction in her work with these recent pieces from the last two years - a translation into painting, onto canvas.

Like previous solo exhibitions, *The Way The Lamp* follows a literary approach: every exhibition acting like a new chapter in a large ongoing narrative; this chapter rooted in the literal materiality and fragility of life. The artist dematerialises former objects and sculptures, introducing them as models and starting points for her compositions. The sculptural approach now takes on form on canvas. Background, line and surface are treated as materials and, speaking through their relations to each other in each painting, they create the images - sometimes pushed to a super corporeality, a symbol, a spatial environment, or a psychological mood. Like in *The Way Away*, which developed over the course of the year 2020. The final, off-centred colour fields are given the same importance as their background and outlines, and has the viewer seemingly looking out of or into an opaque window – onto a red landscape under a blue sky, or into a curved space. It also recalls the, at the time omnipresent, election result charts in red and blue of the US presidential election of 2020.

„These paintings were developed in layers, through a process of adding and reduction over weeks or months. Initially the series was started from photographs of sculptures, most with a very precarious materiality, and the decision to start painting these moments came from a desire to have these formulations transcend their materiality to an extent. To rely on the limited toolkit and materiality of painting seemed appropriate.”

A single object, *Shirt Shelf Painting*, draws the exhibition back into a “precarious materiality” and hints at the social, the politics of daily life, and the poetic. Ambivalence and ambiguity is a crucial part of the artist's practice and her way to deal with existential questions. The paintings and fabric objects exist between abstract compositions and figurative hints, telling stories and often added to by the literary titles. Scheepers holds the viewer, but a hold also in uncertainty – and insists on the simultaneity of figuration and abstraction, concentration and diffusion, presence and absence, window and line chart.

Gerda Scheepers

*1979 in Tzaneen, Südafrika, lebt und arbeitet in Kapstadt, Südafrika

1999 - 2001

Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Arnhem, Niederlande

2001 - 2005

Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Deutschland

Einzelausstellungen (Auswahl)

2021 / The Way The Lamp, ak contemporary, Cologne

2019 / Rooms, Mary Mary Gallery, Glasgow

2018 / fabric actors, Galerie PCP, Paris

2016 / Body Corporate, Mary Mary Gallery, Glasgow

Sitcom, blank projects, Cape Town

2014 / PSYCHO SOCIO SURFACE, blank projects, Cape Town

2013 / A Social Life (Of Image), Mary Mary Gallery, Glasgow

Ca. Dilemma, (collaboration with Marieta Chirulescu),

PIGNA PROJECT SPACE, Rome

Centerfold, Possible Press Volume 3: Issue 1, Philadelphia

Talking about 12 paintings, blank projects, Cape Town

STUDIO BALLET, screening in the SL-public gallery

of the Stockholm Underground, Stockholm

2012 / Low and Partial Romantic Comedy, Kunstverein

Nürnberg – Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft, Nürnberg

Modal Approach and Accent, blank projects, Cape Town

Medium and Modality, OSLO10, Basel

2011 / Rauminhalt Äquivalente, Galerie Micky Schubert, Berlin

Art Berlin Contemporary, Berlin

Relations short before Form, Koffer Ausstellungsraum, Berlin

2010 / Written Spoken Pictures, Center Berlin, Berlin

Inside Arrangement. International II, Mary Mary, Glasgow

2009 / Taras Bookies 2007/2009, Sprüth Magers, Berlin

2008 / Inside Arrangement. International, Micky Schubert, Berlin

2007 / The Office Projects and Others, Art Cologne Preis
für Junge Kunst 2006 at Artothek, Cologne

2006 / Things Prepared, Art Cologne 2006
(New Talents Program), Sprüth Magers, Cologne / Munich / London
Come Garden of the Combed Rocks, Bonner
Kunstverein, Peter Mertes Stipendium

2005 / Lace and Traces, di.vitrine, Düsseldorf
Linescape, Bar Ornella, Cologne

Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl)

2021 / strikeaposefestival, K21, Düsseldorf
The thing itself exists everywhere, blank projects, Cape Town

2020 / Love your symptom, but not too much, blank projects, Cape Town

2019 / the head the hand, blank projects, Cape Town
Russian Morning, MD Bar, Cologne
Im Grunde ist es die Wahrheit (Essentially it's the Truth), Magenta Plains, New York

2018 / BACK TO THE FUTURE III, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch
blank, Galerie Guido W. Baudach, Berlin
Da Uno a Dieci, Galleria Massimo Manini, Brescia

2017 / 17, blank projects, Cape Town
A Painting Today, Stevenson, Cape Town
Alluring shapes, tempting spaces, Galerie Eva Meyer, Paris

2016 / "Jeder sollte in der Lage sein, Kunst zu erwerben.",
Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, Recklinghausen
Figure, blank projects, Cape Town
She Might Be, curated by David Ostrowski & Michail Pergelis, Cologne

2015 / Furniture: a sculpture exhibition, blank projects, Cape Town
Bild und Anpassung, Städtische Galerie, Waldkraiburg
Micky Schubert in Gehntiner Strasse, Galerie Micky Schubert, Berlin
Group Show, Micky Schubert, Micky Schubert, Berlin
Back to the Future II: Abstract Art in South Africa,
SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch

2014 / Thinking, Feeling, Head, Heart, The New Church Museum, Cape Town
next thing you know, blank projects, Cape Town
Danjuma Collection: One Man's Trash (is Another Man's Treasure), London
Part 1: Katharina Marszewski and Gerda Scheepers,
Galerie Warhus Rittershaus, Cologne
Inside Arrangement, Mary Mary Gallery, Glasgow
Bild Und Anpassung / Image And Adaptation, Palais Für Aktuelle Kunst, Glückstadt
DON'T YOU FEEL ME, Galerie Micky Shubert, Berlin

- 2013 / Hotel International, Galerie Warhus Rittershaus / Marsil Hotel, Cologne
PAINTING FOREVER! KEILRAHMEN, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin
Van Bommel Van Dam Prize nominees exhibition, Rudolf-Scharpf Galerie,
Wilhelm Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen am Rhein
This is the thing, blank projects, Cape Town
blank projects in Johannesburg, Ithuba Arts Gallery, Johannesburg
Van Bommel Van Dam Prize nominees exhibition,
Van Bommel Van Dam Museum, Venlo
LIGEGYLDIGT HVORHEN, BLOT UDENFOR VERDEN,
Gallerie Nicolai Wallner, Copenhagen
Provinz Neue Editionen, Galerie Vera Gliem, Cologne
The Stairs, Albus Greenspon Gallery, New York
- 2012 / When Form Becomes Attitude, blank projects, Cape Town
3 Positionen zu Malerei, collaboration with Varda Caivano und Maria Chirulescu,
Galerie Barbara Gross, Munich
Be with me, Galerie Peter Bergman, Stockholm
Cocaine – Blows my brain, Spor Klüb, Berlin
Re-Opening, Deweer Gallery, Otegem
- 2011 / The yarn beam and the revolving stage, Galerie Thomas Flor, Düsseldorf
Dwelling, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York
Gerda Scheepers & Alistair Frost, Mary Mary Gallery, Glasgow
Morgen, Provinz Editionen, Bochum
SINGLE-club, Düsseldorf
- 2010 / Ladies Room, Galerie Warhus Rittershaus, Köln
Drawing on Coats and Hindered Kindreds, Oktober, Düsseldorf
The Importance of Being Earnest, Naumannstrasse 81, Berlin
A Thing is a Thing in a Whole Which it's Not, Temporary Gallery Cologne,
Mauritiuswall 35, Cologne
Dearie Does the Do not Care, Halle für Kunst E.V., Lüneburg
Woodman, Woodman, Who Spare That Tree, Galerie Micky Schubert, Berlin
- 2009 / Arrival Inside, Mary Mary, Glasgow
dok25a, Düsseldorf
- 2007 / Elegance, Kölnischer Kunstverein
(collaborative work with Thea Djordjadze and Rosemarie)