

Looking In

17 April to 25 May 2024

An exhibition of works by Mafalda von Hessen



Mafalda von Hessen, *Doves With Franz West*, 2022, mixed media on paper, 166cm x 126cm. Image courtesy of the artist.

As such, von Hessen creates a sense of the expanse of the indoors, which is seemingly at odds with the intimacy of her chosen subject matter.

‘Lived in’ scenes, which would ordinarily serve as bustling social spaces, are instead devoid of an explicit human presence. Yet, visual signifiers such as coats hanging on a mirror, food on a tabletop, or an indent in a chair, hint at recent activity and situate an interpretation of von Hessen’s work, not only within the poetics of space, but time. We are encouraged to ask the question: what is about to happen, or what has happened? It is this buzz of life, gesturing towards history and anticipating the future, which von Hessen refers to as the ‘soul’ of an object. As a result, material components become characters in her narrative, further animating the space and subsequently encouraging introspection from the viewer. A tension between the physical and psychological acts of ‘looking inwards’ is exemplified in *Doves With Franz West*. The presence of a beloved pet, notepad and key, aid in conveying a space which is clearly personal to the artist. The spatial incoherencies, however, caused by the impossibility of the mirror and its unmatched reflection, introduce a multiplicity of gazes. We, the viewers, are invited in.

Jennifer Guerrini Maraldi (Director of JGM Gallery) says that “I am delighted and very proud to be the first to exhibit the unique works of Mafalda von Hessen, here in London. Each painting is exemplary of both her personal charm and the vibrancy of her surroundings in Rome, where she lives and works.”

For further information and press enquiries, please contact the gallery at info@jgmgallery.com or + 44 (0) 207 228 6027.

Opening Reception:

Wednesday, 24 April, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

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