

Pressrelease
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Dan McCarthy

Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents the first solo exhibition in the Netherlands of American artist Dan McCarthy (1962, Honolulu, Hawaii).

His new paintings portray a seemingly paradisiacal universe. The subjects remind one of holiday snapshots: scenes of a pair of lovers in the setting sun, of surfers on a sun-baked beach, and of beautiful mountain scenery. The figures are surrounded by splendid nature but seem to be detached, caused by the simple, almost two-dimensional way in which Dan McCarthy conveys his subjects. There is hardly any illusion of space suggested. On the other hand, there seems to be a discrepancy between the paradisiacal environment in which the people have been placed and their expressions. Whenever figures laugh, it is mostly with a clownish grin, giving the paintings an almost surrealistic character.

Dan McCarthy's paintings and works on paper show a sublime technical mastery. His almost transparent use of oils reminds one of water colors. In combination with a darker and thicker use of paint, this results in enormous contrasts. These contrasts give his portraits often a disturbing effect: it seems as if with dark colors a second face or mask has been affixed.

Dan McCarthy's paintings do not have a univocal character and leave a lot to the observer's imagination. He says about this: "The key to most paintings is an open mind, patient observation, and a willingness to accept something new. My paintings are like that".

The Bakery: Ellen Berkenblit & Chris Caccamise

The Bakery displays drawings of Ellen Berkenblit (1958) and sculptures of Chris Caccamise (1975) both from New York. Ellen Berkenblit's drawings are charming and girlish; showing at the same time a kind of emptiness owing to the two-dimensional, predominantly static reproduction. This emptiness is enhanced by the blank expression of the woman in almost all drawings. She is always shown in profile and in some works even repeatedly, making them look like visions from a dream. With only a few lines Ellen manages to create intriguing images, like in a daydream.

Besides these drawings, there are sculptures of Chris Caccamise. The material he uses is cardboard, finished with several layers of bright high-gloss enamel paint. The shining objects have been inspired by popular culture, with a wink to the American 'self-fulfilling prophecy'. The comic strip reproduction and the cheerful use of colors make the sculptures look like toys. Childlike innocence and pipe dreams go hand in hand with neurosis and fear of failure.

Annet Gelink Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information please contact Julia Schleyerbach or Floor Wullems, +31.20-3302066, or info@annetgelink.com