

GALERIE FONSWELTERS

Juliette Blightman

A Carpet for Your Somersaults

14 March – 2 May 2020

Juliette Blightman seeks the boundary between private moments and the shared intimacy of a personal moment. She does this by observing her own life; moments with her daughter, friends, making exhibitions and more. Blightman takes us into her personal life through her photos, videos, drawings, paintings and installations, where voyeurism is combined with a dash of melancholy.

A Carpet for Your Somersaults is Blightman's second solo exhibition at Galerie Fons Welters. In response to the show artist friend Olga Balema wrote a text (p.t.o).

Juliette Blightman (UK, 1980) lives and works in London. Solo exhibitions include Felix Gaudlitz (Vienna, AT), Maureen Paley (Condo London hosting Felix Gaudlitz) (London, UK), O-TOWN HOUSE (Los Angeles, US), Galerie Fons Welters (Amsterdam, NL), Kunsthalle Bern (DE), South London Gallery (UK), Badischer Kunstverein (Karlsruhe, DE), Eden Eden (Berlin, DE), and Karma International, (Los Angeles, US). Her work was recently part of group shows at a.o. Kölnischer Kunstverein (Cologne, DE), Museum Ludwig (Cologne, DE), Palais de Tokyo (Paris, FR) and Centraal Museum (Utrecht, NL).

GALERIE FONS WELTERS

The rhythm on the wall, Rhythm of the night,
Daily rhythm
In a bar, at home, at the library, at school, in coffee shops.

Surrounded by mirrors and pink spotlights contorting the body, twirling and flying through foggy air.
Rain or Shine.
The color of the bulb can change the way the face appears in the mirror.

The canvases were bought at the store and painted in muddy monochromes. They retain the up and down movements of the brush, giving them slight tonal variation. Dark teal, yellow, a pencil drawing on canvas of a toilet with a hexagon tile floor besides it, white. Royal blue, black, crimson, elongated painting of a small toilet with a black seat and large shiny black tiles. Hunter green, pencil drawing on canvas of a toilet surrounded by leafy wallpaper and window covered with blinds, black, dark brick red. Green, white toilet, seat up, with black tiles and a brown bottle of something, same image, toilet seat down, black monochrome half the size of the rest.

Thinking inwards, I remember the trampoline had green tape on it. I saw it in the dark, it was raining. Now in the film I see the tape to be white and black. After 12 seconds of a dark screen the trampoline appears amidst summer foliage. Black bars, black net, white clusters of tape on both, the part that one actually jumps on is black with a dark teal skirting, a grey metal structure and a rusty ladder are peaking out. While focused on this one object the image floats, the footage is slowed down, a moving image rather than a still. Black again for 4 seconds. Three children are sitting in the trampoline, different angle, a still. Black, 4 seconds. Two children with two pink striped pillows and a pink blanket in the trampoline, it's covered with silver foil, still, shot from upstairs window. Black, 4 seconds. Shot from upstairs, very sunny, there is a hunter green bench, a black umbrella, a child in pink and yellow with dozens of stuffed animals of various sizes bouncing up and down on the trampoline. Black, 2 seconds. Dark sky, a house with a light on, a red firework going up and out in the distance. Black, 10 seconds. Shimmering silver, sunlight reflects on black and pans over a foot up to the net, through to the summer foliage and the brick house, back to the black surface, swerving around and revealing the pink of a hand, we start to jump up and down, held in the hand, twirling, sometimes seeing the black surface and the plants and net with green clamps, circling towards the house and back around to the hand and legs in slow motion. Black, 6 seconds. A child in a trampoline. A different angle, a towel, a child lying down in the trampoline, pink slippers. Shot from upstairs, three trashcans, two mountain bikes, a clothesline with towels, trampoline, summer foliage, parking lot, two cars, brick building, still. A moving image of fireworks behind a house with the light on. Black, 4 seconds. A child standing up in the trampoline, face obscured by sunlight. Black, 4 seconds. The sky from inside the trampoline, still. Black, 4 seconds. The trampoline in cloudy weather, the bench looks grey, two shopping bags of weeds beside it. A grey pencil drawing of the same image. A watercolor painting of the trampoline and background. Moving image of fireworks set against a black sky. Black, 4 seconds. Interior shot of a room, it is night and a table light is on, the camera is focusing on the window, on a table in the corner we see a lamp, a globe, and cosmetic products, to the right of the window is a tall chair. Black, 4 seconds. The trampoline net, the white and black tape, and green plastic ties holding it together. Black, 4 seconds. The trampoline and grey chair in the rain. The trampoline and a basketball, partially blocked by swooping foliage, still green, but turning red and swaying mildly. Fireworks and some camera movement against a black sky. The trampoline in the dark with child jumping, a party happening in the parking lot, still, shot from above. The trampoline in the dark. Fireworks shooting from the lawn up, the camera is in a crowd. The trampoline with deflated gold balloon attached, a small discarded Christmas tree in the foreground. Black, 4 seconds. Fireworks against the black sky. The trampoline in a terrestrial downpour, shot from above, the camera shakes. The trampoline shot straight on, it is still pouring, the camera moves up to the grey sky, the net is still visible. The moon and the clouds against the black sky.

- *Olga Balema*