

Lily van der Stokker

Living room

opening april 11th

kaufmann repetto is glad to present Living room, Lily van der Stokker new solo show at the gallery.

For more than 30 years Lily van der Stokker has used the wall-painting as a prior means of production. Through her works the artist has been carrying on a research that overcomes the borders of canvas, and shows how decoration and ornament, daily life and femininity, can be ascribed to a rigorous artistic practice, undertaken with irreverence and displacing honesty.

In the last few years Lily van der Stokker has started to insert sculptural elements, often furniture, in her wall-paintings, therefore posing the premises for the creation of real environments, where the painting and the object merge and the artwork becomes a space to be both observed and experienced.

On the occasion of her solo show, Lily van der Stokker has for the first time developed a series of domestic settings, reflecting the audacity that has always been characterizing her practice. The installations marking the exhibition path reset the traditional borders between art and design, painting and decoration, by mixing patterns, materials, techniques, through a process made of overlapping and combinations.

Encompassed by these inclusive and overwhelming architectures, the paintings become large backcloths, while the furniture through the painting assumes a sculptural value, leaving the unmistakable sign of the artist, indistinctly enveloping armchairs, carpets and tables. These works, besides commenting daily routines, literally become a part of them: the functional soul of these pieces as well as their familiar aspect, comes along with a subversive exuberance that invests the viewer through a blaze of shapes and colors.

Through an ambiguous game, the installations composing the show recall our need for comfort and privacy while, at the same time, they bring the private sphere into public, turning what looks familiar into something inappropriate.

The cheekily naïf esthetic, made of saturated colors, floral motifs, sinuous lines, claims the dignity of what is usually considered as frivolous. The practice of Lily van der Stokker consists in this very frontal display of femininity portrayed in all its aspects: quoting the artist words “women can be sweet, romantic, sensual, communicative, decorative, weak, emotional and what else? They are very good at crying”.

Through her joyful and overwhelming installations, Lily van der Stokker creates a universe that is both cerebral and emotional, enveloping and aggressive, frivolous and incredibly serious, a universe where femininity is given voice and sometimes even the chance to scream out for joy.