

Galerie Daniel Buchholz

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Lucy McKenzie

“Slender Means”

10 December 2010 - 26 February 2011

Opening reception on Friday, 10 December, 7-9 p.m.

The work of Lucy McKenzie often crosses from fine art into other fields and her recent painting installations combine conceptual concerns with those of craft, heritage and commercial art. This work is informed by studies at a Brussels school for specialist decorative painting, Ecole Van Der Kelen-Logelain, which espouses an approach rooted in the 19th century artisan tradition. The new works that Lucy McKenzie presents under the title “Slender Means” at Galerie Daniel Buchholz embodies this dual purpose; all potentially have several uses.

In the novella of 1963 “The Girls of Slender Means”, the Scottish writer Muriel Spark documents the lives of the respectable yet impecunious young women living in The May of Teck Club situated in post war Kensington. The club occupies a traditional town house, now divided into dormitories and small private rooms to house the single women. Referencing this spare, precise book, Lucy McKenzie creates four paintings to fit in the exhibition space of Galerie Daniel Buchholz at Neven-DuMont-Strasse. This environment conveys the process by which a bourgeois home is transformed when its original inhabitants, large wealthy families, are supplanted by modern dwellers, and ultimately abandoned completely. While producing this work in her studio in Brussels Lucy McKenzie used part of the paintings as a set for the upcoming film "Le Coin du Diable" by Belgian artist and film maker Lucile Desamory.

The quodlibet table top shows objects from the archive of Viennese hat manufacturer Mühlbauer, founded in 1903 and still family owned. The trompe l'oeil painting will be used for their Autumn / Winter 2011 advertising. Lucy McKenzie, together with textile designer Beca Lipscombe is part of the design collective “Atelier”, who are currently in collaboration with the company Mühlbauer producing a series of hats, that will be presented in “Atelier’s” first fashion collection next year.

The table is accompanied by a series of works on paper, also conceived for use as advertising images. For many years the artist has produced posters for concerts and art events. Now working within “Atelier” she extends this to fashion and design, continuing to work with independent groups and individuals with whom she shares the ethos of self sufficiency.

A comprehensive selection of the print works by Lucy McKenzie are in the collection of the Museum Ludwig, Cologne, and will be on display there from December 10, 2010, to June 26, 2011, in an installation that is especially developed for this occasion by the artist.

The desk in the third room of the exhibition is a piece of furniture that Lucy McKenzie developed and fabricated in association with architect Hubert Debiesme and cabinet maker David Boussier. It is designed to house and display the archive of printed card editions by Scottish artist Ian Hamilton Finlay who died in 2006, commissioned for this purpose by a private collector for his personal use.