

NADJA KIRSCHGARTEN



14 January – 5 March 2022

Content and Form, Nadja Kirschgarten

"But there is still life. Birds are chirping; they must be sparrows. Their little voices are clear and sharp as, nails on glass: there is no more car noise to drown them out. Do they notice this silence, the absence of motors? If so are they happier?"

Quote from: The Year of the Flood by Margaret Atwood, 2009.

Henry Matisse drew a shrub with black paint using a brush three years before he died, he called the painting *Shrub*. I saw an illustration of this drawing in a book. On the opposite page was one of his silhouettes. The monochrome color areas of the silhouette were in strong contrast to the black lines of the drawing. Both works beautiful, one lived from the surfaces and colors, the other from the delicacy and poetry of the stroke.

For some time I had been asking myself how to give more space to the quality of the drawing in painting. In my working process, the drawings sketched on the canvas disappeared as soon as the physical color in the form of surfaces and volumes brought the subject to light. For two years I tried in various ways to bring surfaces, colors and sketches into a balance. In my latest works I have found a way to combine the weighty and material, earthy of painting with the expression of the momentary, the direct and at the same time fragile of sketching.

Nadja Kirschgarten, January 2022

Image: Nadja Kirschgarten, *Rosarot*, 2021, oil on canvas, 140 x 130 cm