

## *studiolo*

AMÉLIE BIGARD  
*Dear Shitty Dreams*

Opening Thursday September 29th, 2022  
30\_09\_2022 > 19\_11\_2022

Studiolo is pleased to present *Dear Shitty Dreams*, Amélie Bigard's (Lyon, 1997) first solo exhibition at Studiolo curated by Maria Chiara Valacchi.

On show, thirteen unpublished works created using her distinctive "icon" technique, a patient painting process using only tempera on wood that continues the artist's research into the world of adolescence and the archetype of the *Anti-Hero*; an iconography constructed from a complex sum of personal memory, everyday life and images selected from the infinite world of the media.

As a continuation of the narrative begun in 'Ghosttown' — her first solo exhibition at *Le Consulat* in Paris — Bigard once again dwells on the representation of what we might call '*ghosts*': people, images or dramatic moments in our lives that have left an indelible mark on us and that silently live on in our memories, nostalgia or regrets.

The protagonists are always teenagers in the grip of fears or anguish, their glances turned downwards or towards nothingness blend in situations of ambiguous collectivity, as well as extreme experiences of marginalization, tender hugs, or desolate prom dances where to finally find a welcoming, albeit temporary, refuge. Immersed in slightly hinted rooms or in obscure landscapes, they live in worlds that are not exactly realistic, as if their mental space from the private dimension was suddenly projected outwards, populating these places with unexpected elements such as paper castles, child toys, dragons, stars, planets, verdant gardens, *carillon*, sex toys and even shreds of memories, all stitched up by the artist with clear allegorical objectives. The delicacies of their bodies — as if constantly waiting for a gesture of affection that could redeem them — offer themselves to the observer in the entirety of their imperfections, both physical and psychological, free of all clichés and discharged of those social masks that would have us conform and flatten to a common correspondent.

Each painting is like a page in a secret diary, recounting the aspirations and disillusionments of a generation that grew up in the shadow of a resplendent but - unfortunately - 'plastic' imaginary world, designed to perfection by the diabolical consumerism machine: advertisements, hyper-pop desires embodied by dreamlike toys, or even TV series and *rom-coms* ready to offer us glossy collective and family models, all dreams from which every adolescent, sooner or later, will have to learn painfully to wake up.

Bigard's paintings deliberately deceive us into a semantic trick, where the vividness of the colours and the presence of "*cute*" details often clashes with the harshness of the themes described, a symbolic dichotomy that has its roots in the painting of the late *Middle Ages* and *Humanism*, for the artist in particular in the works of Giotto or Beato Angelico; a difficult thematic coexistence that directs us towards the choice of the exhibition title. Thirteen epiphanies, those of Bigard, the result of a careful study of his generation: lost, isolated and disenchanting but, precisely for this reason, ready to heroically respond with love and imagination to a corrupted and rejecting reality.

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## **Amélie Bigard**

Born in 1997 in Lyon. Lives and works in Paris

### ***Studies***

2021 DNSEP, ENSAPC Paris-Cergy, FR

2020 Art University of Berlin UDK

2019 DNA, Beaux-Arts, Marseille

### ***Grants and Residences***

*Therapeia Art Residency, Grèce*

*La Folie Barbizon, Barbizon*

*Atelier au Le Consulat Voltaire, Paris*

*Atelier à l'Orfèvrerie, Paris*

*Grant Artagon with the support of Adam & Lavrut, Paris*

### ***Selected Solo Exhibitions***

2022

*Dear Shitty Dreams, Studiolo, Milan*

*Ghostown, Le Consulat Voltaire, Paris*

### ***Selected Group Exhibitions***

2022

*Ouverture Des Ateliers Artagon Pantin, Pantin*

*Cousinades, Galerie Chapelle XIV, Paris*

*Manifesto of Fragility (with Antoine Medes), Biennale de Lyon, Galerie Tatiss, Lyon*

*La Sorcière, Le Bouffon, Les Sentinelles, Le Fantôme et la Princesse, Château de Vincennes, Paris*

*La Vallée des Merveilles, Galerie Espace à vendre, Nice*

*Sunday Showroom, Loulou De Laclais Collection, Paris*

*Miscellanées, à l'Origine Des Arts, Galerie Sebastiene Lepeuve, Paris*

*Studiolo Lounge #2, Studiolo, Milan*

2021

*L'Invisible (with Dove Perspicacius), Galerie Tatiss, Lyon*

*Dames Natures, Femmes En Avant, La Caserme, Paris*

*Rien Que Des Possibilités, Rien Que Des Désirs, Galerie Lazarew, Paris*

*Songe d'Un Jour D'Été, Hotel Particulier rue Sebastien, Marseille*

*L'Asile Des Oiseaux (with Lena Long), Galerie Lazarew, Paris*