

Dossier

Fine, Thank You Sarah Fripon

Project Room

21 June – 16 September 2023
Curated by Giovanna Manzotti

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Opening Hours
Monday – Friday
3.30pm – 7.30pm
Saturday by appointment

Renata Fabbri

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Renata Fabbri is pleased to present *Fine, Thank You*, Sarah Fripon's first solo exhibition in Italy. The project is part of the gallery's project room programme, and features a series of new paintings in dialogue with sculptural elements created by the artist in response to the specificity of the exhibition site.

Drawing on a sizeable archive of digital images, screenshots, stock photos, advertisements and iconic images – quoted, combined and elaborated through free concatenations of visual associations – Fripon's pictorial practice reflects the paradoxes of the contemporary world in a time of crisis. Created mainly using soft colours, the paintings appear blurred and faded, like out-of-focus snapshots of fleeting moments and vanishing memories, generating an effect of visual misalignment, further emphasised by the use of airbrushing.

Like a time capsule that preserves and archives its current state of energy and exchange, the project recreates an environment that yields fragments of images and objects from a distorted society continually fed by deceptive capitalist superstructures with no means to an end. Vague and concrete, the title suggests a signal, an almost self-evident and 'automatic' answer to a question that, although intuitable, we are not allowed to know, at least for now.

Sarah Fripon (b. 1989, Zeitz, Germany) lives and works in Vienna. She holds a BA in Fashion Design and an MFA from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. Solo exhibitions include: Harkawik Gallery, New York (2023); Pilot, Vienna (2022) and Chris Andrews Gallery, Montréal (with Chloe Seibert) (2022). Her work has been exhibited in group shows at Vin Vin, Vienna (2023); Harkawik, Los Angeles (2022); Fünfzigzwanzig, Salzburg (2021); Palais Liechtenstein, Vienna (2020) and Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck (2019), among others. Her works may be found in the collection of the Baden State Museum, Karlsruhe, the Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, and the Collection of the Vienna Museum. Fripon is currently a Fellowship Awardee of the Bank Austria Studios 2022–24.

Installation views



Fine Thank You, 2023. Installation view at Sotto Project Room, Renata Fabbri, Milan. Ph. Mattia Mognetti

Exhibited works



Sarah Fripon, *If Only I Could*, 2023 (left)
Brassy Houses, 2021 (right)
Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40 x 2,5 cm (each)
Courtesy the artist

Mysterious and at times far-fetched, Sarah Fripon's sceneries blend with ordinary and familiar situations, echoing the aura of vanishing memories or lost places. The fleeting and undefined outlines of the subjects portrayed seem to invite spectators to distance themselves from them in order to fully grasp their clarity, as well as to come to terms with reality, questioning the truthfulness of the images we consume on a daily basis. Like out-of-focus snapshots, these acrylics on canvas act as a chain within the exhibition space, drawing each other. A woman's face is depicted wearing a shiny mask that appears to be made up of strips of LED. Composed as of layers of a curtain of light adheres to the face, this mask proves to be a necessary 'instrument' for navigating through the proliferation and global circulation of images that permeate our daily life to the point of affecting it. At the mercy of deceptive capitalist super-structures and paradoxical systems in which society keeps growing, some houses are instead precariously perched on a stack of shaky-looking coins.



Sarah Fripon, *Businessman Sitting on a White Fluffy Cloud Enjoying Himself*, 2023
Acrylic on canvas, 72 x 110 x 2,5 cm
Courtesy the artist

A businessman in a suit and tie travels on a real 'cloud', here illustrated in a "fluffy" way, as the title suggests. With apparently no precise destination, this figure floats in a sky marked by traces of light, in the hands of fate, heading towards a future still unknown to him. All three works evoke instability and resilience at the same time, revealing to the eye states of mind and sensations that we have all experienced at least once.



Sarah Fripon, *Esoteric Pipe 1*, 2023
Zinc pipes, glass sphere, LED spot, 40 x 40 x 35 cm
Courtesy the artist

Although Fripon's practice tends to focus mostly on pictorial research, the artist also works in sculptures and installations, which often enter into dialogue with the canvases. Conceived on coming face to face with the peculiarities of the exhibition venue, these works, together with the paintings, respond to the intention of creating an atmosphere as if in a kind of time capsule that preserves and archives its current state of energy and exchange.



Sarah Fripon, *Esoteric Pipe 2*, 2023
Zinc pipes, glass sphere, cable, 175 x 15 x 15 cm
Courtesy the artist

Given the relatively small venue on the lower floor of the gallery, the lack of natural light and the rather low ceiling, the artist reacted to the space by imagining these three sculptural elements as tools nourishing a chain of feelings, suggestions and echoes within the space, where a mostly closed door leads to some cellars inaccessible to visitors, but whose presence is however quite palpable. Consisting of modular zinc pipes assembled together, two of these sculptures are installed close to the corners of the room, while a third one lies on the floor.



Sarah Fripon, *Esoteric Pipe 3*, 2023
Zinc pipes, glass sphere, cable, 110 x 15 x 30 cm
Courtesy the artist

Inside them are lights and crystal spheres of different sizes which function as illuminated and mirrored spots, symbols that, “according to cultural wisdom, predict the future and refer to the esoteric and to fortune”, affirms the artist. Like free concatenations of ‘visual associations’, these pipes bring some of the surrounding’s vibrancy into their modular form, while also resonating with the question of the future of energy supply and the notion of nostalgic homeliness associated with the idea of stove heating.

Sarah Fripon

Born in 1989, Zeitz, Germany

Lives and works in Vienna, Austria

2014 – 2021	Mag. Art. in Fine Arts Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
2011 – 2015	BFA Fashion Design University of Art and Design Linz/ Fashion Institute Vienna
2010 – 2011	Fine Arts Academy of Fine Arts Dresden

Public Collections

Baden State Museum, Karlsruhe

Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Collection of the Vienna Museum

Fellowship Awardee of Bank Austria Studios (2022 – 2024)

Selected Exhibitions

2023	<i>A Gift To The Dark</i> , Vin Vin, Vienna, AT
2022	<i>Talking About C</i> , Harkawik, New York, USA (solo)
2022	<i>Try To Look Natural</i> , pilot, Vienna, AT (solo)
2022	<i>Silver Screen</i> , Harkawik, Los Angeles, US
2022	<i>Keeping up with the Trouble</i> , brut nordwest, Vienna, AT
2022	<i>How exactly like the object, how ugly! How exactly like the object, how beautiful</i> , Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna, AT
2022	<i>Retiring the Attic</i> , with Chloe Seibert, tilling, Montreal, CA
2021	<i>Tombola IV</i> , New Jörg, Vienna
2021	<i>Pending Objects II</i> , new now artspace, Frankfurt/ Main, DE
2021	<i>Eco Flirt</i> , smolka contemporary X Vienna Biennale, Vienna
2021	<i>Magistra Artium</i> , graduation show, exhibit, Academy of fine Arts Vienna
2021	<i>Pending Objects I</i> , Fünfzigzwanzig, Salzburg
2021	<i>Mixed Feelings</i> , WAF gallery, Vienna
2020	<i>Alles Außer Marzipan</i> , with Julia Haugeneder, Kunstraum Super, Vienna
2020	<i>Die Akademie schläft nicht</i> , Palais Liechtenstein, Vienna
2020	<i>Plan D</i> , project Westbahnstraße X akbild, Vienna
2019	<i>Lobby Royale</i> , Bau 2–6, Vienna (solo)
2019	<i>ALL PAPER SHOW</i> , Semperdepot, Vienna
2019	<i>Austrian Graphics Award exhibition</i> , Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck
2019	<i>Koschatzky Art Award exhibition</i> , MUMOK Hofstallungen, Vienna
2019	<i>POPCORN</i> (with Julia Haugeneder), bureau veritas, Vienna
2017	<i>eher monochrom</i> , magdas, Vienna (solo)
2017	<i>drawing / together</i> , with Lukas Hochrieder, Die Raumteiler, Vienna
2016	<i>Punkt.Strich</i> , Das Manfred, Vienna
2015	<i>Raum 311</i> , magdas, Vienna
2015	<i>ctrl+alt+bm</i> , Hesh Halle, Baia Mare, RO
2014	<i>Letzte Show</i> , Grelle Forelle, Vienna (Group Fashion Performance in Collaboration with Jakob Lena Knebl)
2014	<i>Frühlingserwachen</i> , Landestheater Linz, Linz (Group Fashion Performance)
2013	<i>SHOW</i> , Odeon Theater, Vienna (Group Fashion Performance in Collaboration with Jakob Lena Knebl and Barbara Rüdiger)
2011	<i>Transit</i> , Kunstverein Essenheim, DE