

## **NATHALIE DU PASQUIER: PAINTINGS OF THINGS. PAINTINGS AS OBJECTS**

From 10 June to 3 September 2023

### **With 62 works by French artist Nathalie Du Pasquier, Kunsthal Aarhus opens the doors to the artist's first exhibition in Denmark.**

Nathalie Du Pasquier is a French artist who began her career as a designer in Milan, Italy. This is the first time Du Pasquier is exhibiting at a Scandinavian art institution and Kunsthal Aarhus has gathered a wide selection of her artworks created between 1989 and the present day. Du Pasquier has also created a wall-painting for the café area commissioned by Kunsthal Aarhus in which the artist has incorporated the architecture of the institution.

“It is very exceptional that we can present this exhibition by Du Pasquier at Kunsthal Aarhus. She is an important artist who has made her mark on the international scene for many years. The audience will certainly recognise features in her design and art and at the same time they will be presented with something new and unknown,” says curator Diana Baldon.

#### **ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

The exhibition unfolds in three galleries (Gallery 1,2 and 3) in the oldest spaces of Kunsthal Aarhus. The 62 works are from two specific periods in the artist's career: 1989 to 2000 and 2015 to 2023. To make a connection between the two periods Gallery 2 contains a series of ceramic works (*PASQUI*, 2002). These were made in collaboration with the experimental CRAFT laboratory in Limoges, France, a city world-renowned for its porcelain industry.

Galleries 2 and 3 present works from the period 1989 to 2000. Here the exhibition focuses on Du Pasquier's earlier figurative artworks which the artist calls “paintings of things”. They consist of pictures that follow an accurate compositional method, yet they are imbued with spontaneous intuition. In 1987 when painting became Du Pasquier's focus, still-lives became her preferred genre. In the works, she uses an earthenware colour palette – applied using thin layers of brushwork – on squared canvasses, as well as large sheets of paper. They portray, in meticulous detail, what the artist finds in front of her – a piece of fruit, a vase, a chair – next to items of “bric-à-brac”: universal and rudimentary “things” such a screwdriver or washing power in a cardboard box.

Gallery 1 (paintings as objects) presents works from the period 2015 to 2023, which marks a shift in the way Du Pasquier approaches the genre of still-life painting. It no longer seeks to imitate nature: instead, her paintings focus on abstract geometries that have become the main subject. Grids, lines, colours, and proportions become universal expressive tools used in an endless process, where variations emerge one after the other from the reworking of older compositions. By moving onto a larger physical domain, the artist shifts our attention from the realm of the image to that of the object.

Du Pasquier's canvases continue from the galleries and connect to physical objects outside the exhibition space. A wall-painting in the café area, made especially for Kunsthall Aarhus and incorporated into the architecture completes the exhibition.

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Nathalie Du Pasquier (b. 1957, Bordeaux, France) lives and works in Milan since 1979. Until 1986 she worked as a designer and was a founding member of the post-modern design collective Memphis Group, for which she designed numerous “decorated surfaces”: textiles, carpets, plastic laminates, and some furniture and objects. In 1987 she turned the focus of her practice to painting. Her distinctive colourful compositions and abstract structures have been rediscovered by a wider, international audience as a result of her breakthrough solo exhibition at Kunsthalle Wien (Vienna, 2016). She has exhibited in international group exhibitions at, among others, Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich (*Geometric Opulence*, 2022); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (*Future, Former, Fugitive: A French Scene*, 2019); Le Consortium, Dijon (*3e Biennale l'Almanach18*, 2018) and Museo José Luis Cuevas, Ciudad de México (*Lecciones de Tinieblas*, 2007). Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at Institute of Contemporary Art (Philadelphia, 2017); MACRO — Museum of Contemporary Art (Rome, 2021); MRAC – Musée régional d’art contemporain (Sérignan, 2022); GfZK – Museum of Contemporary Art (Leipzig, 2019), MGLC – The International Centre of Graphic Arts (Ljubljana, 2019) and Camden Arts Centre (London, 2017), among others.

Opening: Friday 9 June at 16:00

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