

Press release

Nora Kapfer

Pretty Serious Stuff

April 13 – May 18, 2024

Pretty Serious Stuff is Nora Kapfer's second solo exhibition at Édouard Montassut. The artist presents a body of new works – four oil paintings and one piece rendered in bitumen. Linked by recurring motifs, notably silhouettes or outlines of flowers and rustic amoeba-like ornamentation; they are all structured by underlying grids. The grids are either part of the structured paper mounted onto the surfaces or painted.

In one painting, the strong outlines of a pansy, a recurrent motif within the artist's oeuvre, provide a frame against an array of different flower silhouettes emerges from a dissolving grid, adorned in hues of pinks, beiges, greys, and cerulean blue. In a second painting, this same pansy silhouette has fallen over and filled in with a forcefully light bouquet of brushstrokes.

Hard edges and soft surfaces, along with an intrepid application of colour, seem to have led to the emergence of new painterly events within the exhibited works. They continue to be about making and letting the paintings emerge from their materials. However, this time, there appears to be less emphasis on the process of becoming a painting. Instead, they talk bluntly about having materialized as pictures.

"The word stuff [...] caused me to stumble, because I realized I'd lost whatever control I thought I had in the conversation when he used that word."

Nora Kapfer (b. 1984, Germany) lives and works in Berlin. Recent solo exhibitions of her work have been held at Edouard Montassut, Paris, 2021 and 2024 ; Cento Gallery, Glasgow, 2023 ; FriArt Kunsthalle, Fribourg, 2022 ; Galerie Lars Friedrich, Berlin, 2020. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, 2023 and 2024 ; Lore Deutz, Cologne, 2023 ; Galerie Lars Friedrich, Berlin, 2023 ; Gregor Staiger, Zürich, 2022 ; Rothschild & Co, Zürich, 2022 ; C-L-E-A-R-I-N-G, Brussels, 2022 ; Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, 2022. Her work belongs to the collections of the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna and of the Federal Collection for Contemporary Art, Berlin.