UNION PACIFIC

Katrine Bobek, Martin Aagaard Hansen, Morten Knudsen, Carl Mannov, Anna Kristine Hvid Petersen and Adele Rannes

Describe to me the view from my window

11 May - 15 June 2024

It's nine o'clock in the evening, on a bus going down a busy street in Copenhagen. The atmosphere is dull and quietly dejected, as if everyone has accepted that they are late for something nameless. In reality they are going home, to the few hours of tranquility before the bell rings and the misty morning parade commences once more.

A man sits by the bus window, talking on his phone. The voice on the other end sounds as if it comes from the end of a long hallway, they have a brief, indecipherable conversation. The man suddenly breathes a sigh of relief, and says the words: "Describe to me the view from my window". At first, I wondered if the view from his window was one awaiting him at the end of his bus ride, although it occurred to me that his journey might extend longer than a daily commute. One thing seemed obvious: this view was a sight longed for.

I started repeating the sentence to myself, twisting and turning it to form multiple meanings and connotations, dependent on tone and environment. I pictured the person on the other end of the line, and then the view itself. Perhaps it was a plaza full of pigeons, huddled together under a canopy of wings. Perhaps it looked inwards, upon objects arranged neatly on a table, or someone overlooking a garden draped in flowers.

Over the following days, I used the man's sentence as a sort of mantra. As the hours passed by, I imagined myself describing to someone else what I was doing or seeing, mainly to entertain myself, but also as a method of thinking through the eyes of others.

Text by Martin Aagaard Hansen

Each of the artists in this group exhibition uses painting as a kind of portal: to a deeply personal yet otherworldly realm, as in the paintings of Katrine Bobek and the work of Adele Rannes, or surreal visions of urban culture, such as Carl Mannov's. Martin Aagaard Hansen excavates the unknown beneath these urban surfaces, Morten Knudsen's abstract works communicate sights indescribable through language, and Anna Kristine Hvid Petersen depicts narrative scenes similar to– but not quite the same as– reality.