

Ellen De Meutter

28.02 – 11.04.2010

With her paintings, Ellen De Meutter has succeeded in positioning herself as one of Belgium's most prominent painters in just a few years' time. Even though Ellen De Meutter has developed a very recognisable personal painting style since 2005, her work does not rely on a predictable imagery. On the contrary, regular new painterly developments form surprising chapters in the developing oeuvre of this artist. It was therefore a conscious choice to present only her most recent production in this first solo museum exhibition.

The world which Ellen De Meutter creates in her paintings is both strange and familiar. In her rather graphic painterly style she creates compositions that seem to suggest a story or an event. The many possible storylines which are potentially developed in connection with the images and motifs, however, can not easily be put into words and evade all possible explanations. Ellen De Meutter always maintains a very generous openness and spatiality in her works, which gives the spectator great interpretative freedom.

Ellen De Meutter develops her compositions in a very intuitive manner, without using existing visual material. The scenes she portrays are mental representations that originate from her own undeniably rich imagination. The naïve figurative motifs in her work suggest that we are seeing remembered images that spring from the unconscious. Motifs such as a bed, a canoe, a lamp, and a mirror appear in darkened landscapes and interiors. She combines a seemingly childlike and light-hearted imagery with a dark and brooding atmosphere. The disquieting effect of the mirror and the reflection is dominantly present: the replication of the representation that exists as a new frame within the composition, but also the mirror that acts as a gateway to another unknown reality.

In her use of colour and the application of paint, Ellen De Meutter combines lightheartedness with a certain sense of gravity. Colours and paint strokes blend both harmoniously and conflictively, which produces a strange painterly tension. Through her painting technique and the way in which she builds up her painting with motifs she creates a very energetic and rhythmic composition. The result is paintings that challenge the spectator into an intense exploration throughout a remarkable iconography.



1.



2.



3.

Images:

1. "De val", 2009, Acrylic, oil and ink on canvas, 80 x 130 cm
2. "A room of one's own", 2010, Acrylic, oil and ink on canvas, 100 x 80 cm
3. "Room 546", 2009, Acrylic, oil and ink on canvas, 30 x 40 cm

Courtesy Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp and Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles