

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts

How we met

Two person exhibition: David Brian Smith and Marliz Frencken

“How we met through Instagram” a two person exhibition by Marliz Frencken and David Brian Smith

Instagram has created worldwide connections amongst artists of different generations, and continents, and facilitated new communities that might have never popped up without the platform. The connection between artists David Brian Smith and Marliz Frencken is one of those friendships that started online. Now their works meet for the first time in this exhibition even though they haven't met in person, yet. Although their practices seem far apart in aesthetics, their art works connect on work ethics and intensity of subject matter, and as written as a friendship that started on Instagram...



David Brian Smith

David Brian Smith's figurative work is rooted in the pictorial tradition of landscape and portrait painting, on canvas and paper. From direct personal references of growing up in the English countryside, to his grandfather, and shepherhood, Smith's brushstrokes fused with fantasy turn the scenes into a trippy patchwork of candy-coloured sheep and psychedelic skies. Artist Tracey Emin wrote in Frieze Magazine in 2011 about Smith: "I have a David Brian Smith painting. It is crazy to look at: a thousand different colours and a solitary figure surrounded by sheep. When I first saw the figure I saw it as a shepherd, but other times I see the Grim Reaper. The painting takes on the mood that I feel; this is why I like his work."

Currently the artist has an solo exhibition at Xippas Galerie, Geneva

Born in 1981 in Wolverhampton (England), David Brian Smith currently lives and works in London. He studied at Wolverhampton University and Chelsea College of Art and Design, London (UK). Forthcoming solo exhibition at Carl Freedman Gallery, London (UK); recently he had an exhibition at Baronian Xippas, Brussels/ Knokke (BE). David Brian Smith received the Creekside Open Award in 2013 and the Royal Academy Landscape Painting Award in 2005.

His work was featured in both solo and collective shows in galleries and institutions such as Wagdas Gallery, London; Galerie VidalCuglietta, Brussels; the Neue Froth Kunsthalle, Brighton; Cul de Sac, London; Weltraum, Munich; the Saatchi Gallery, London; Benderspace, London; Studio Voltaire, London; Susak, Croatia; Long and Ryle Gallery, London; House Gallery, London and the Eagleworks Gallery, Wolverhampton.

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Marliz Frencken

Marliz Frencken's oeuvre spans over 40 years, and is characterized by an impulse driven eclectic art practice arising from childhood memory, trauma, and self exploration. Reminiscent of Louise Bourgeois' life story is the inseparable connection between the artist's life and work, and the manner in which an introspective stream of works is alternated with expressive episodes in an almost constant flux, resulting in figurative, and abstract works, in sculptures, paintings, drawings and photographs. These opposite impulses lead into series of works whereby material driven - and the meditative act of making fuels the subject matter versus series of works made with an expressive mind set. Whereby these variety of works find their coherence in the whimsyness of their creator; the type of artist that instinctively takes a stance against conformism.

Marliz Frencken (1955, NL) studied at the Art Academy in Arnhem (currently known as ArtEZ). Upcoming solo exhibitions include: Kunsthalle St. Annen, Lübeck (DE) curated by Antje-Britt Mählman.

In the past she was nominated for the Prix de Rome, and the royal award for painting; had a solo exhibition at Barbara Farber, a solo exhibition and international representation by the Rotterdam based avant-garde gallery Bébert, and later on she had exhibitions with the legendary Belgium curator Jan Hoet, and also Hannah Hagedaars and Jan Hein Sassen (Stedelijk Museum) were true advocates of her work. In the late 80's and 90's her work has been included in many collections, a.o. within the Miami based Rubell Family Collection.

