

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts

Between Ourselves

Polina Barskaya

15 October - 12 November, 2022

Self-portraiture, a husband and a young daughter define the realm of Polina Barskaya's vulnerable paintings. Made with acrylic on canvas or panel, the paintings are small, never exceeding 70 cm to a side. They are set in an apartment in Brooklyn, and rural towns in Italy, where Barskaya and her family moved and traveled after the pandemic began in spring 2020. The facial expressions and gazes seem distant from the family-portrait setting the protagonists are in. As if they're caught in the most unpolished sense of the moment. Not much is being said in an explicit sense, however every detail in the paintings enroll into small narratives of this young family's life. Given Barskaya's impulse toward confessional intimacy (as beautifully written by Andrew L. Shea in the Brooklyn Rail), Alice Neel could come to mind, sometimes swirled into a raw version of Botticelli's renaissance figures.

Polina Barskaya (b. 1984, Cherkassy, USSR) received a MFA from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY and a BA from Hunter College, NY. Barskaya received an Artist Fellowship in Painting from New York Foundation of the Arts (NYFA) in 2021, and an Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant in 2020. Recent exhibitions include Taymour Grahne Projects, London; Althuis Hofland Fine Arts, Amsterdam; Kristin Hjellegjerde gallery, London; Marianne Boesky Gallery, NY; and Monya Rowe Gallery, NY. Her work has been featured in Artforum, New York Magazine, Artnet, Financial Times, Brooklyn rail, New American Paintings and Hyperallergic, among others. The artist lives and works between NY, USA and Italy. She is represented by Monya Rowe Gallery, NY.