

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts

We Do As We Please

Nathan Ritterpusch

Opening 21 October 13:00 - 18:00

Nathan Ritterpusch's second solo exhibition, 'We Do As We Please,' at Althuis Hofland Fine Arts, beckons us to a world where the past is not merely a memory but an enchanting metaphor for an unparalleled odyssey. Within this presentation, three series coalesce, each conveying its distinct narrative, weaving a captivating exploration of potency, mythology and sentimental imagery. Ritterpusch's use of various mediums, from painting to digital manipulation and photography, enables him to transcend temporal boundaries, seamlessly melding the past and present into a compelling visual narrative. Through the exhibition, Ritterpusch prompts a contemplative voyage of the dynamic interplay between art, memory and the ever-evolving human experience.

In the **Siren Series**, Ritterpusch transports us to the golden era of the 1930s and 40s. Drawing on digital techniques, he pays homage to classic imagery of Greek mythology - perhaps the influence of a stint working with Ralph Lauren, where the Pennsylvanian-born artist was exposed to the timeless allure of classic aesthetics. The siren paintings evoke a sense of enchantment and wonder, reminiscent of elusive moments that seem to exist in a world between reality and dream. They softly sway with their quiet influence, akin to a flower anticipating pollination.

Born out of the men's magazines of the 60s, the Hollywood pinups of **Old Enough to Be My Mother** exude the glory of a bygone era. The warped imagery resurrects these vintage Hollywood icons, injecting their attractiveness with an element of distortion and hence transforming their time-worn allure into something newly intriguing. Here, the Connecticut-based artist has taken the decade that precedes him and imbued it with his own unique perspective, adding an evocative authority to these symbols of vigour. Swirly, almost dreamlike, this series becomes a metaphor for an episode tinged with reverie—distorted by memory, yet heightened with a sense of nostalgia.

At first glance, Ritterpusch's **Flower Series** may seem like a conventional exploration of floral appeal. However, upon closer examination, an otherworldly sensation of ethereal charm and a subtle sense of elevation emerges within the flowers of Ritterpusch. Through the interplay of photography, painting, and digital alteration, the artist unifies the disparate elements of his work. These flowers take on a mythological sense, beautiful not just as a form of aesthetic power but as a symbol of dormant potential. Art, in Ritterpusch's hands, functions as a reflection and operates differently for each viewer, provoking contemplation and introspection.

Even though these three series may appear disparate at first, they share a common thread. Through the lens of intricate storytelling and mesmerizing visual aesthetics, Ritterpusch portrays beauty as a form of power. Ritterpusch challenges us to use art as reflection, to appreciate the twisted and the mythological, and to find tranquility in silence and waiting. 'We Do As We Please' is a testament to Nathan Ritterpusch's ability to transform the familiar into the extraordinary, inviting viewers into a world where the boundaries of elegance and perception are constantly being redrawn.

—Asim Muhammad