

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts

Sunset

Jasper Hagaraar

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts is pleased to announce *Sunset*, a solo exhibition by Dutch artist **Jasper Hagaraar (b. 1977, Tilburg, The Netherlands)**. The exhibition will be on view from January 18 until March 15 2025.

Sunset continues Jasper Hagaraar's infatuation with his principal subject: light. For Hagaraar, light is more than simply a determinant of form and color, it is a courier loaded with information from beyond the canvas — evocations of memories, emotions, reveries — that travels back and forth between painting and viewer. Hagaraar's paintings are primed with suggestive power, and the balance he finds is in a light that offers enough information to usher viewers towards a certain emotional direction, while leaving the image sufficiently open for each viewer's individual interpretation.

In this new body of work, Hagaraar's light is softer; atmospheres more sombre and subdued. We see the evening light gradually fade, and with it, the mood of the paintings shift. While each painting narrates its own self-contained world, there is a connective feeling underlying the show of an evening coming to an end, an unwinding, but with an anticipatory tone. Continuing to let light dictate the mood, the only painting devoid of any natural light has a certain streak of menace to it.

Sunset also sees Hagaraar continue to transfer his technique as an aquarellist into his oil painting, often using the white of the bare canvas as the brightest source of light. There are moments in the show that his brushstrokes become more painterly, encouraging the viewer to step back from the painting to allow the imagery to become more in focus. Having switched from panel to linen last year, Hagaraar's approach is more versatile as he is able to prepare the canvas to act as a panel, or, enabled by his delicate touch and reserved use of paint, use the texture of the canvas as a supporting role in his paintings.

Everything, for that matter, plays a supporting role to Hagaraar's light in these paintings, even their content. His choice of ordinary, quotidian subject matter, which borders on kitsch, and their seemingly arbitrary crops that often sever their most discernible or consequential features, allows light, and its suggestive powers, to take centre stage. Hagaraar's intent is to evoke an emotional reaction, a feeling of nostalgia that transports the viewer to a memory of their own. The compositional frames are so tight they give their subjects the necessary anonymity that allows the viewer to take over and complete the picture for themselves.

By leaving themselves open to such interpretation, these paintings take significant risks. Functioning as Rorschach tests of sorts, they rely on the viewer's instinctual reaction and association. Paradoxically, in leaving so much of his painting's success to the imaginative powers of the viewer, Hagaraar is made to rely more fully on his technique. Throughout *Sunset*, the viewer's memories and sensibilities are awoken, ensuring the paintings don't end when we stop looking at them, but rather continue beyond the canvas.
-Text by Puck Loomans

Jasper Hagaraar lives and works in Hedikhuizen, the Netherlands. He has been an artist in residence at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten (2004–05). In 2012 he was the recipient of Dutch Royal Award for Painting (jury and public award). Hagaraar was selected by Anton Henning for a year long mentoring trajectory (2016-17), funded by the Mondriaan foundation.

His work will be featured in the upcoming exhibition in Museum More - 'Reality check - 10 jaar MORE, 10 jaar realisme'

Recently he participated in exhibitions at Rhodes Gallery, London, Hive Centre for Contemporary Art, Beijing, Kunsthal Kade, Amersfoort, Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht and Centraal Museum Utrecht, Utrecht. A.o. His works are in the collections of: Centraal museum, Utrecht Dordrechts museum, Dordrecht, Teylers museum, Haarlem, The Royal family collection of the Netherlands, De Nederlandsche bank, ING art collection, Izala hospitals corporate collection, LUMC Leiden.