

The figure in the carpet

Mathieu Cherkit, Arjan van Helmond, Marenne Welten

June 15 – July 27, 2018

Opening: Friday June 15, 6-8 pm

Albada Jelgersma Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition *The figure in the carpet*, with works on paper by **Mathieu Cherkit, Arjan van Helmond** and **Marenne Welten**. The exhibition opens Friday, June 15 from 6 to 8 pm and continues through July 27.

The figure in the carpet is the title of a short story by Henry James from 1896 in which “the figure” becomes a metaphor for discovering the secret meaning or intention of an author’s work. In our context it evokes the image of particular places that call for our attention. What does a place do to us throughout its history and the time we spend there?

All three artists are in some way concerned with what certain places do with us, and how this can be made present or tangible in their work. **Mathieu Cherkit** works with places in the home of his grandparents where he now lives. **Arjan van Helmond** is looking for ordinary places that we run into daily and may not notice because of their commonness. **Marenne Welten** works in series, each time researching the history of a specific place.

In her gouaches **Marenne Welten** (1959) creates emotionally charged scenes with figures that belong to a place and at the same time do not seem to fit in. They are awkward and sometimes self-conscious. Some places are more recognizable than others. Most are interiors of homes. Her manner of painting appears impulsive yet thoughtful. The images are dreamlike yet they are grounded in some reality that Welten has uncovered in her explorations. The tensions she creates make her work suspenseful.

Mathieu Cherkit (1982), who has shown before at the gallery, works from his home and with everything he encounters around him. That makes his work highly personal. For *The figure in the carpet* he has produced a series of oil pastels on paper. Like in his paintings, he layers the works, rendering them thick and colorful. They zoom in on details and thus draw the viewer into his personal sphere. By offering a variety of perspectives and a mix of abstract elements he invites us into his world.

Arjan van Helmond (1971) paints ordinary spaces and objects, and by giving them his full attention, he puts them in a different perspective. His work is fragmented, by the use of various angles of the object and by the use of different sheets of paper. In this exhibition multiple floors are on view. We walk on floors daily, but do we really notice them, their structures and their patterns? Ordinary as floors are, as van Helmond places them on the foreground they become the subject. As he tells himself, he lets the real thing work in on him, then distances himself and lets things happen while working. His works on paper show rich patterns, and contain intriguing color combinations. The floors become worlds in and of themselves.

For more information and images you can contact us at info@albada-jelgersma.com of +31 20 261 93 66.

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