

## Cherkit's house in detail

TEMPS MORT

**MATHIEU CHERKIT**

**Where** Albada Jelgersma Gallery

Lijnbaansgracht 318

**On display** until 20/1

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**EDO DIJKSTERHUIS**

**Friday December 22, 2017**

The paintings in Temps mort are so fresh that you can smell them when you enter the gallery. Yet it is not the scent that makes Mathieu Cherkit's first Dutch solo exhibition so fresh. Nor is his drive for innovation. The Frenchman himself cites Hockney and Matisse as examples, but it is mainly the Leipziger School that resonates in its colorful palette - not so strange given the six months that Cherkit studied in the East German town.

No, Cherkit's strength lies in his idiosyncratic choice of subject matter. He only paints one thing: the former home of his grandparents, where he now lives with his wife and child. He knows every nook and cranny. He does not need to photograph anything, but simply captures what he sees or brings to mind, from stairwell to untidy stuffed storage shed. As with places you've known for a long time, associations and emotions lump together. Memory layers... Cherkit depicts this by means of shifts in perspective that give the house the appearance of a castle in the mirror. The incidence of light is also inimitable and inexplicable light surfaces flicker here and there. The painter zooms in on sometimes unsightly details: an electrical outlet, a bottle on the floor. The small domestic stories they tell are enhanced by the paintings that Cherkit places in his paintings. For example, a miniature of an oriental structure leaning against a tiled wall, flanked by a mouse lurking for a trap. Sometimes such a painting is lifted from the canvas and promoted to a work in itself. Mathieu Cherkit's house is like Alice in Wonderland's rabbit hole.



*Sushi Spirit*, Mathieu Cherkit