

Marijn van Kreij

Until Sat Oct 17, 92 Hoxton St, London, N1 6LP

Art: Galleries: Kings Cross to Shoreditch FREE

Time Out says

One gets the feeling that Marijn van Kreij could keep on making work ad infinitum. While his lightness of touch seems to verge on the throwaway, a robust conceptual drop-net is so much in evidence that even the tritest of scribbles can be hypothesised away into the 'meaningful' drawer. The television monitor above the gallery door, for instance, which guides the karaoke singer through the 'la, la, la' bit of Iggy Pop and The Stooges's 'The Passenger', is so bang on the button of media studies discourse around informational urgency and vacuity that pop has indeed almost eaten itself.

The artist's gesture is again neatly parcelled into a theory flat-pack when two apparently identical paintings, comprising scrawled missives, daubs, scribbles and stains, undo one another's claim to authenticity and primacy. it also suggests a critique of consumerism, the prioritisation of uniqueness and so on.

Personally, I enjoy a bit of critical referencing in my artworks, but for those who prefer their practice less loaded, this show might grate somewhat. Even the most casual piece here - two oranges interrupted by a hand mirror, so that the reflection of one corresponds with the actuality of the other - articulates the academic concept of the simulacrum by way of the paintings of Magritte and autoerotic asphyxiation (or is that just me?).

While meaning is latent in all images and objects, like the stereotypical beautiful woman waiting to be discovered beneath prim glasses and chignon, here there is a feeling that she is waiting mob-handed in ambush, coiled to pounce in multitude, even on those who like their artworks plain and guileless.

Less

Zinger Presents details

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92 Hoxton St, London, N1 6LP

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1 comment

I thought the exhibition of Marijn van Kreij was simply astonishing - sublime balance between deep theme's and light humour.

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Posted by Roy Cordell on Sep 14 2009 9:31pm