

Amy Sutton

Fabulist

1st June - 26th August, 2017

On view in the Descart.es gallery is *Fabulist*, featuring new works by Croydon-based artist Amy Sutton. In *Fabulist*, Amy creates folk tales from an imagined culture. Each image portrays an abstract story, told by combining unreal shapes and figurative elements. The works explore interconnections between memory and reality, nostalgia and fantasy, birth and life.

Originally from Norfolk, Amy studied at University of the Arts London and has spent the past 7 years working as a Motion Graphic Designer and Animator in London.

Amy works in oil, acrylic, watercolour and ink, combining the media in experimental ways to explore novel stylistic effects and express a patchwork of influences and intentions. Her visual language draws upon influences from childhood, such as sci-fi books, her record sleeve collection and garishly colourful 90's cartoons.

Amy's works depict a vibrantly coloured world of nostalgia and escapism, merging realism and the abstract to express the boundlessness of the imagination. She couples familiar elements such as realistic faces in unlikely pairings with dreamlike shapes to create wonderfully strange juxtapositions. Folklore and fables have always captured the artist's imagination and in this work she explores methods of storytelling, creating visual worlds through pattern, colour and surreal interrelationships.

Amy's vibrant paintings celebrate the beauty of smooth liquid forms and imagined geometric environments. Characters are suspended in graphic spaces, challenging the rules of reality and logic. Faces feature strongly in the pieces, as the subject is so commonplace and yet so fascinatingly unique. Each variation of features denotes a new personality behind the facade. Viewers can apply a multitude of their own experiences onto each fabricated face to imbue them with human characteristics. Rendered in oil paint using a dry brush technique to create a soft, ethereal quality, many of the faces are amalgamations of characters within films with whom Amy feels an affinity. Cinema has been a huge influence on her creativity, with filmmakers such as Jacques Rivette, Claude Chabrol and Eric Rohmer pushing realism to the edges of a dream.

The work examines themes of family and birth, as relationships between people are simplified into tactile abstractions, with disparate shapes overlapping and intersecting to create new entities and satellites. The work also reveals hints of nostalgia and naivety as the artist considers childhood and how its influences form our future.