

Louise Giovanelli

A Priori

Van Baerlestraat 80, Amsterdam
November 27, 2020 – January 9, 2021

GRIMM is pleased to present *A Priori*, an exhibition of new paintings by Louise Giovanelli. The exhibition marks Giovanelli's second solo exhibition with the gallery and her first solo exhibition in the Netherlands.

Giovanelli's practice is one of subtle contrasts and involves an erasure or undoing of prior meaning in the images she appropriates. Using thin layers of paint to build up form, light and shade, Giovanelli removes her subject matter from circulation in the world, to be studied and observed. Disconnected from their original context, the subsequent ephemera of staged performance and film comes to life in a new series of paintings.

Giovanelli's luminous works are created by applying single pigment colors to create real painted light. In the central work of the exhibition, a large diptych, as well as in a single painting titled *Dyer*, theatre curtains construct both space and atmosphere. Simultaneously absorbing and exhaling light to create moments where their material quality is intensified and abstracted. From this restricted perspective, the minutiae of the stage appears to be performative in itself, set at the periphery of an unnamed spectacle.

On the opposing wall hangs another diptych, two shimmering gold blouses cropped tightly together in the frame. Giovanelli renders them in such a way that the viewer can't see who wears them, or if they are perhaps merely hanging side by side, unworn. Their fabric



Louise Giovanelli | *Dyer* | 2020

reminiscent of gold-sparkling suits worn by gameshow hosts, drapery from TV theatre, as opposed to the imbued dramatic heaviness of a theatre curtain. The close-up perspective of these 'figures' invades the viewers' personal space and gives the work a menacing quality.

not for publication

For more information, interview and royalty free image requests, please contact the gallery manager Jorien de Vries:
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The small scale portraits on display are drawn from films stills and show an actor fixed in a heightened state of emotion. Through the medium of paint the image has become additionally charged: The ecstatic state of this woman is at once erotic, violent, and blissful, indicating the limits of human emotion. Each reproduction prompts questions and speculation about the nature of observation, and the role of viewer as the interpreter of meaning.

Folds in fabric, glitches and interruptions to a surface interest Giovanelli. A painting called *Criss* depicts a close-up image of a house plant and demonstrates a new line of experimentation with paint treatment. Applying thick paint flecks over a seemingly figurative background, the artist pushes the parameters of depth on the flat surface. The forms seem to dissolve into gems of light and color under scrutiny. They challenge the eye with each decision Giovanelli has made to bring attention to, and away from, representation. Where an image or form has the characteristic of being ambiguous, Giovanelli draws out this quality as a source of power, and light.

About the artist

Louise Giovanelli (b. 1993, London, UK) lives and works in Manchester (UK). She recently completed her postgraduate studies at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main (DE) with professor Amy Sillman in 2020, after having earned a Bachelor's Degree (B.A. Hons, Fine Art) at the Manchester School of Art, Manchester (UK).

Recent solo exhibitions include: *Aerial Silk*, GRIMM, New York, NY (US); *Time Inside*, Frutta Gallery, Rome (IT); *Louise Giovanelli*, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester (UK); *Louise Giovanelli*, Workplace Foundation, Gateshead (UK); *A Throw to the Side*, Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, Warrington (UK); *Slow to Respond*, Touchstones Gallery, Rochdale (UK); *Hold your tongue*, Louise Giovanelli and Pius Fox, Transition Gallery, London (UK).

She has also participated in the following group exhibitions: *Life Still*, C.I.E.A.R.I.N.G., New York, NY (US); *El oro de los tigres*, Air de Paris, Romainville (FR); *Touching from a Distance*, curated by Workplace Foundation, The Conduit, London (UK); *The Dream That Follows The Mouth*, Arcade Gallery, London (UK); *Staedelschule: Rundgang*, Frankfurt Am Main (DE); *Tales of the haunted and the body*, curated by Kuba Paris, Casa Cristea Schneider, Berlin (DE), among others.



Louise Giovanelli | *Host* | 2020

She currently has a solo exhibition, *in medias res*, at Workplace Gallery in London (UK) which will be on display until December 18th, 2020.

Giovanelli's work can be found in the Government Art Collection (UK), Sarow Gallery collection (DE), The University of Salford collection (UK), The Grundy Gallery collection (UK), Manchester Art Gallery Collection (UK), Manchester School of Art collection (UK), the Warrington Museum and Art Gallery collection (UK) and a number of important private collections.

About the gallery

GRIMM was founded in Amsterdam in 2005. Since its establishment, the gallery has been committed to promoting and supporting emerging and mid-career artists who work in a diverse range of media. Representing thirty international artists, the gallery has two spaces in Amsterdam, and one in New York.

GRIMM is expanding to a new 6,000 square foot gallery space in Tribeca, New York to open in January 2021.

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