

Press release

Group exhibition 'She Knows'

February 14 - April 27

Inez Carmen, Mel Chan, Yamuna Forzani, Lisette van Hoogenhuyze, Julia Kiryanova, Pedro Matias, Chris Rijk, Maayke Schuitema, Jessi Strixner, Quinn Zeljak, Joana Schneider, Anne Mei Poppe, Cathalijn Wouters, Florentijn de Boer, Lois Richard, Mickey Philips and Sebiha Demir.

Rademakers Gallery | Nijverheidslaan 3A9 | Weesp

Opening: Saturday March 2nd 16.00 - 19.00 hrs

including live performance Mel Chan

'She Knows'

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She Knows' is the upcoming group exhibition at Rademakers Gallery, dedicated to celebrating the strength and diversity of individuals in the contemporary art world. Through a carefully curated selection of artworks in various mediums, this exhibition amplifies a resounding message about empowerment, embracing the voices of women, the LGBTQI+ community and male artists alike.

This exhibition is an invitation to immerse yourself in a contemporary narrative of empowerment, igniting conversations and inspiring action towards a more inclusive art world. It stands as a testament to the ongoing journey of individuals breaking boundaries and defining their own paths. 'She Knows' spotlights artists who embody empowerment, each piece resonating with the declaration: 'I can buy myself Flowers', a potent anthem for our gallery. At Rademakers, we believe in female power, strength, and self-sufficiency - the very essence of this exhibit's title. Acknowledging the gender imbalance in the art world, recent research by Women Inc. reveals that only 20 percent of displayed works are by women. While we proudly feature exceptional male artists, our mission is clear: to actively champion equality and inclusivity. The theme 'I can buy myself flowers' encapsulates our dedication to female empowerment and aligns seamlessly with our profound respect for both the strength of individuals and the beauty of

nature. Join us in celebrating the creative force of women, the LGBTQI+ community, and artists of all back grounds in contemporary art.

Exploring Identity

For the 'She Knows' exhibition, Chris Rijk introduces a captivating series of sculpted self-portraits alongside the notable 'Dit is mijn lijf'. These sculpted busts, complementing Rijk's signature pots and dishes, provide a tangible framework, offering clarity in the creative process. This choice of archetypes, clear and relatable, makes the pieces more approachable.

The forthcoming series promises a multi-dimensional view of the artist. 'Self-Portrait as Dolly Parton' embodies exuberance with big hair and bold curves, while two other portraits present Chris Rijk as he is. Titles like 'Self-portraits a straight man' and 'Self-portrait as a liar' add depth to these works. The former playfully raises questions about the visibility of identity, exploring if 'straightness' manifests outwardly. Simultaneously, it's a poignant reflection on masculinity, approached with introspection and humor. The latter, 'Portrait as a Liar', offers an enigmatic, poetic description, embracing the abstract and the enigmatic. Paired with the whimsical Dolly bust, this 'Self-portrait as...' formula invites an exploration of endless roles, each questioning identity - the one lived and the one envisioned.

Reclaiming Beauty

In her intricate creations, Inez Carmen celebrates the diverse forms of the human body, particularly emphasizing the profound beauty found in the resilience of the female physique. In a world that has often confined, categorized, and commodified the female body, Inez Carmen strives to reshape this narrative. She sees it as a transformative journey, akin to a flower gracefully evolving through season and stages, a testament to the strength innate in every individual. Amidst the societal pressures and trends dictating standards of beauty, Inez Carmen urges us to recognize the true source of autonomy and self-sufficiency within ourselves. She challenges the notion that our bodies

should conform to external ideals, encouraging us to find beauty in our innate selves. Aligned with the ethos of the 'She Knows' exhibition, Inez Carmen draws inspiration from the unity that underlies our individual experiences. She acknowledges the common struggle for acknowledgment in a society shaped by expectations. Through her art, Inez Carmen invites us to contemplate the peculiarities within these societal constructs and to reflect on our own place within this intricate tapestry. The abstract forms within the female body become a source of inspiration, igniting reflection on the intricate interplay between self-perception and societal influence.

Feminism Through Bold Artistry

Lisette van Hoogenhuyze presents a bold exploration of feminism, threading through her diverse body of work. From abstract patterns to the more assertive ceramic creations the artist weaves a narrative that challenges societal norms. The ceramic letters, inspired by a journey from Amsterdam to Portugal during a Covid lockdown, serve as a focal point. This unique alphabet emerged from encounters with 'azulejos', distinct Portuguese tiles. The letters are a testament to resilience in the face of presumptions about gender roles. Lisette van Hoogenhuyze confronts familiar phrases like "Oh, please don't make a scene my dear" and "You'll be more beautiful if you would smile". Her response, a gender-ambiguous smiling figure, subverts these age-old expectations. In her 2D work, van Hoogenhuyze continues to explore the interplay between femininity and ambiguity. This theme extends to her rug paintings, where gender takes a backseat to narrative. The diptych for "She Knows" draws from Titian's interpretation of an Ovidian scene. It exposes the enduring burden placed on women for the desires of men. Lisette van Hoogenhuyze's art serves as a powerful reminder of the progress yet to be made. It urges viewers to question ingrained perceptions and societal norms.

Ode to Everyday Empowerment

Anne Mei Poppe's art beautifully captures the moments of everyday life with a touch of magic and a modern perspective. Her use of vibrant colors brings a lively energy to her pieces, inviting viewers to appreciate the simple moments. Through her paintings, Poppe explores the interconnectedness of humans, nature, and objects in the delicate dance of existence. Her work serves as a mirror, reflecting the truth that we are all woven into the larger fabric of life. In the upcoming exhibition 'She Knows' Poppe celebrates the strength and independence that resides within every individual. Her paintings depict a diverse range of people from different corners of the world, each with their own unique story. Sharing stories of communities, mothers nurturing their children, and dreamers chasing their aspirations. These canvases remind us that regardless of life's challenges, there is beauty, joy, and resilience within us all.

Stitching Femininity

In her art, Quinn Zeljak finds a profound connection to the perception of femininity through her chosen mediums. Textile, traditionally viewed as 'women's work' and associated with the domestic realm, holds a special place in her creative journey. From early lessons in crochet from her mother to learning knitting from her grandmother, Zeljak has been guided by a lineage of skilled women who mastered the art of textiles. She approaches her work with a deep respect for the meticulous craftsmanship involved in creating textiles. The intricate stitches and patterns reveal a captivating dance of mathematics and repetition, bringing a unique beauty to her pieces. Through textiles,

Zeljak crafts art that beckons to be touched—a departure from conventional norms in the art world.

Soft blankets, often relegated to the domestic sphere, become a canvas for celebration in her hands. In recent works, delving into her personal journey with body and health, sheen devours to create pieces that offer solace and comfort, both to herself and her audience. Quinn Zeljak challenges the conventional image of an artist, redefining the creative process. While some stand before an easel, she finds her muse in a comfortable chair, dedicating weeks to crochet expansive tapestries and blankets. Her art not only speaks to her relationship with womanhood but also challenges assumptions about able-bodied artists. Through her work, Zeljak invites us to reexamine the essence of artistry, celebrating the diverse paths artists take in their creative endeavors.

Note to Editor:

Alongside this exhibition, we're excited to share that Rademakers Gallery, a gallery and creative agency, relocated to a new independent artspace in Weesp.

Our new location: Nijverheidslaan 3A9 will remain a welcoming space for artists and art enthusiasts, offering a platform for artistic expression and engagement with art.

For more information and/or images, please contact: info@rademakersgallery.com

New Address per January 11, 2024

Rademakers Gallery

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