

When are you going to make a real painting?

A solo show by Annalisa Merrilees, presented by The Rafiki Gallery.

Curated by Sophia Trisoglio and Leo Sartain

April 9th to May 2nd, online viewing.

The Rafiki Gallery is very pleased to present the work of Scottish Emerging artist, Annalisa Merrilees, in her solo show titled 'When are you going to make a real painting?' featuring a variety of works that are both rich in texture and colour, influenced by the colour field movement of the 50's. The exhibition is focussed on works that are emotionally engaging and sensorially evocative, offering a glimpse into the meditative state assumed by the artist as she paints.

Originating from an obsession with sudoku, a grid is often used by Merrilees to start her works, with a random number generator then used to allocate the colours. Through the removal of Merrilees' artistic agency, a dialogue opens up between the artist and her art. In many ways, the paintings are about touch rather than sight, focusing on the physical relationship between the artist and the paint. Delicately painted over a long period of time, the marks appear to be mechanically made, but reveal themselves to be the product of a steady hand. The combination of these random and deliberate actions come together to create a formal balance within the work.

In an age of technological modernity and convenience, Merrilees' work questions one's relationship between the virtual and the real. The raw physicality of the artist's mark, made alongside the help of a randomised algorithm, coyly explores this juxtaposition with a playful irony. In many ways, the artist's work represents a desire to reconnect with the pure - seemingly archaic - act of painting. The delicate interplay of analogue and digital come together to produce painted works that flirt with the eye, encouraging a closer study of the works by the viewer.

Featuring a selection of previously exhibited work alongside newly completed pieces, the show offers an opportunity to see a broad spectrum of the artist's practice shown in a curated context. With over 20 works included, it marks the largest exhibition of the artist's work to date. The show is being offered in an online format due to current restrictions.

Annalisa Merrilees received her BA in painting from Gray's School of Art, The Robert Gordon University in 2018. Her work has been exhibited widely throughout the UK and concurrent with this exhibition she has work included in the Royal Scottish Academy's Annual Exhibition.

For more information, please contact Leo Sartain on 07521755829 or leo@therafikigallery.com