

Niek Kemps & Maja Klaassens

20.4.2024 - 18.5.2024

opening April 20, 2024 12.00-17.00h

PRESS RELEASE

Sometimes you encounter an artwork for the first time and it's puzzling and difficult to place. You understand that something is happening, but it's hard to say exactly what. In the case of Niek Kemps I know this is a deliberate choice. He starts from a clear idea, which is then worked, wrought, and pushed until it becomes an untouchable superlative, standing alone in its own bit of universe. Kemps doesn't mind if the audience is unable to trace where his thoughts originated. In fact, he likes it that way.

The work of Maja Klaassens is equally enigmatic, though through a different mechanism. Her works are often small in size, with everything being exactly measured, considered and deliberate. This much has been clear to me from the beginning. Exactly why it was considered and what was deliberated was nevertheless a mystery. A mystery that intrigued me then and has kept intriguing me since.

In this exhibition some paintings that Maja straightforwardly calls *Grass* are combined with some works by Niek titled *The Phenomenon of Preferred Spin Direction*. Both works are complex constellations that through their parts form a new whole. In the case of Maja, the parts are only recognizable through the place they take in the whole, while for Niek the individual parts are discarded so that the whole can become a new entity.

In their solemn silence both artists lie in each other's extension, while through the details it can be gleaned that their approach is fundamentally different.