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this and that

Solo exhibition Pim Blokker

In collaboration with Jeanine Hofland

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When I say the title *this and that* in my mind I do it to the melody of the song *tea for two* by Doris Day and I know it's really silly. The comparison obviously comes from the alliteration of the two t's, but also from the sense of lightheartedness and ease found both in the song and in the art work of Pim Blokker, the humorous elements and playful cartoonish figures Blokker deploys, contribute heartily to such notice.

The collection of curiosities found in Pim Blokker's studio is an experience in itself. The nonchalance that is part of the artist's persona is represented in the way he organises his work. Spread out over his studio floor lie dozens of quintessential Pim Blokker paintings. Asking about the seemingly intended 'dirty colours' he uses, Blokker responds with the confession he indeed likes to almost never wash his paintbrush.

Visiting the current exhibition in the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam, *From Bosch to Bruegel, Uncovering Everyday Life*, I saw irony and satire present in every painting, be it through the blunt representation of the conman, drunks or the insane of the sixteenth century. The paintings of these old masters functioned as a mirror to society, reflected on everyday life and raised awareness to certain behaviour and morality. And though I never see people cracking up over a museum painting, the use of humour in art isn't an uncommon practice. Taking a giant leap in the art history timeline where Duchamp's infamous readymades and the commencing of the Dada movement brought this sense of awareness caused by irony and satire again, this time it turned more inward, critiquing art society.

Now describing Pim Blokker's work as solely humorous however, is missing its essence, but neither can his often used absurd imagery be labeled as indifferent creations merely painted for the sake of painting. It lies somewhere in between. The artist's slightly satirical handwriting imposes a strangely comforting feeling on the viewer by turning cruel events into pleasantries. He implements conflicting situations and finds a way of dealing with confrontation, a raincloud holding an umbrella, or a faceless princess lifting up a castle, turned upside down. These are quirky dark fantasies that stay very much open to the viewers' interpretation, beliefs and awareness.

Kitty van Leeuwen

Pim Blokker is a former resident at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam, he is the recipient of the Scheffer Prize (2011) and is currently doing a residency at the KNIR in Rome. Various solo exhibitions include: Taking a day off, Punt WG, Amsterdam (2014) and While The Elephant Walks, Jeanine Hofland, Amsterdam (2013). He also took part in different group shows, including Das Ding, Billytown, The Hague (2013) and Event Horizon, Galerie Gabriel Rolt, Amsterdam (2014). This current solo exhibition at Galerie Juliette Jongma takes place in collaboration with Jeanine Hofland. This and that is supported by the Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst (AFK).