

Sarah Gilman

Containment & Still Life with Trompe L'oeil Collage #2,

Oil paint on canvas

2018

Sarah Gilman's painting practice explores the relation of trompe l'oeil to the genre of still-life painting. The French term meaning 'to deceive the eye' is used to describe paintings that are intended to fool the viewer into believing, if only for a moment, that what they see is the projection of a three dimensional object into real space, rather than an illusion held on the surface of a flat plane. Directly influenced by the paintings of 17th century still-life painters, such as Cornelius Gijsbrechts and Samuel van Hoogstraten, Gilman, however, situates her painting within contemporary discourse surrounding the still-life genre.

The two paintings included in the More T'North exhibition concentrate on the representation of overlooked objects in connection with her daily routine. In order to utilise the shallow depth of field, objects and materials, such as masking tape are used as a means of producing trompe l'oeil illusion. In a shift from still-life painting's normative tableau, Gilman replaces table-top with wall based subject matter - the horizontal for the vertical.

Although Gilman's paintings contain figurative elements, they aim to draw attention to the painting as object, to the physicality of the paint itself, and to the tension between figuration and abstraction.

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Where in the North of England are you based?

St. Helens, Merseyside

What does living in The North mean to you?

The North is my home. I was born in Crewe, Cheshire and have now lived, worked and studied in St. Helens, Merseyside during the past 15 years. Living so close to both Manchester and Liverpool has provided me with many diverse, educational and cultural experiences. The North is brimming with creativity, some of it that is easily found by visiting galleries, studios, music venues but I also feel there is hidden potential that struggles to be noticed. However, that hidden potential seems to be pushing to the surface and I feel this is an exciting time for artists in the North.

