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Lily Van Der Stokker

Hello Chair

At first sight Lily Van Der Stokker's work seems to display a certain irony, but what ultimately emerges is a kind of irreverence. This distancing – this conceptual detachment – underlies the enthusiastically espoused, chromatically acidic flower power of wall paintings like *Happy*, *Friendly Love*, *Kissy* and *Wonderful* and the sardonic optimism of *I'm Ugly*, *How Sad for You*, *How Pitiful* and *What a Rude Way to Treat Artists*. Impatient with the pecking orders and classifications of art and decoration, she stands the famed Minimalist maxim 'Less is More' on its head and comes up with the much more apt 'The More the Better'. For instance her *Hello Chair* – source of the exhibition's title – temporarily covers a large part of Air de Paris' walls and the floor with its welcoming message, but installations like these turn out to be not all that ephemeral: they might be painted over when the show closes, but they live on right there in the gallery walls. So these three new works have come here to hook up with their predecessors, themselves specially created for Air de Paris. In a recent interview Lily Van Der Stokker mentioned the belief in modernism that sprang up among artists – most of them New York-based – in the early 90s; it went on to become slightly superficial and dropped out of fashion, but if modernism has stopped being the driving force for artists, what do they have left? With its vision of a joyously static future, *No Improvement*, *No Progress* seems to challenge modernism's inherent notions of progress and regression. And last but not least there's the comforting, convivial *Don't Worry*, *Nothing Will Happen*, a touch of consolation from the artist, perhaps, for an art world suffering from the constant chase after novelty. Or could it be that Lily Van Der Stokker just wants to show us the special affection she feels for the word 'nothing'?

Lily Van Der Stokker's work, and in particular her wall paintings, have been exhibited at major venues in France and elsewhere, including the New Museum, NY (2013), Tate St Ives, St Ives (2010), Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2007), ICA, London (2004), Centre Pompidou, Paris (2000) and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2000). Her works will be exhibited at Koenig & Clinton, New York (Fall 2014), at Studio Voltaire, London and Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2015).

List of works

First space

No progress / design for wallpainting in donut-shape, 2011
 mixed media, color pencil on paper, 33 x 45,1 x 2,5 cm

Useless movement / design for wallpainting with carpet, 2011-2014
 color pencil on paper, 33 x 45,1 x 2,5 cm

No Improvement, No Progress, 2009-2014
 acrylic paint on wall and mixed media, 235 x 475 x 180 cm

No Reason, No Goal, 2008-2014
 acrylic paint on canvas, 35 x 26,5 cm

Silver Space

Celebrating Nothing, design for wall painting with furniture and carpet, 2004
pencil and pen on paper, 24,6 x 32,3 x 2 cm

Renovation Party / design for wallpainting, 2003-2006
colorpencil and marker on paper, 37 x 49 x 3,7 cm

Second space

Het is 8.15 en dinsdag (it is now 8:15 and it is Tuesday) / design for wallpainting and box, 2006
color pencil on paper, 24,2 x 25,6 x 2,3 cm

Hello Chair, 2009-2014
acrylic paint on wall and mixed media, 166 x 263 x 76 cm

Sleep in gallery, 2008
2 paintings, acrylic paint on canvas, 2 x (13 x 18 cm)

Third space

I like Everything, 1995
marker on paper, 24,4 x 32,9 x 2 cm

Don't Worry, 1991-2014
acrylic paint on canvas, 240 x 340 cm

New And Old #1 (with ring), 1990
marker on paper, 33 x 45,1 x 2,5 cm

New And Old #2, 1990
marker on paper, 33 x 45,1 x 2,5 cm

Nothing, design for wallpainting, 1993
marker on paper, 34 x 26,4 cm