

FLORENT STOSKOPF THE MOCKING BIRD

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EXHIBITION: 8 MARCH - 13 APRIL 2024

“Everything always happens for a reason. I guess it was never meant to be but it’s just somethin’ we have no control over, and that’s what destiny is.”

We warmly welcome Florent Stoskopf’s return to BEERS for his second solo exhibition, entitled *The Mocking Bird*. The title, he informs us, is a loose reference to elements of his own autobiography that he found mirrored in the song *Mockingbird* by Eminem.

Stoskopf’s work has undergone significant change in recent years. The true testament of an artist whose singular pursuit in live and practice revolves around his own development in the studio. A self-taught artist, Stoskopf’s own erudition in art has been a passion project, resulting in a new inclusion of collage and appropriating themes from classical painting with contemporary colours and techniques.

Since his debut with the gallery in 2020, Stoskopf has had a meteoric rise in the art world, showing internationally and – unlike some artists who would be comfortable to remain in their lane – Stoskopf has upped the ante here, pushing the works away from easy comparisons to, say, Jonas Wood, and into more abstract, fantastical territory: Alessandro Pessoli or Dana Schutz.

Stoskopf explains how the works in *The Mocking Bird* are rooted in both reality and fantasy. As he states, each painting refers to one or more birds. Some are domesticated, others wild, others in a cage. It is an allegory of the human condition. Through myth, history, a mix of fact and fiction and even the allegories of modern times, birds have always been thought to represent various emotions or herald important events; to warn of death or to bless those they visit. In Charlie Corbett’s *12 Birds to Save Your Life*, for instance, birds have a strange way of reminding us of our mortality, the human condition, and the beauty in the smallest of events.

Paintings, too, remind us of these very same tenets. From life and death, to myth, fact, and fiction. We invite you to explore Stoskopf’s newest paintings and explore these themes for yourself.



Still Life With Mockingbird (2023)
Oil acrylic and acrylic ink on linen
160 x 140 cm



Florent Stoskopf is a self-taught painter based in Brittany, France, whose work deftly subverts traditional art-historical themes and archetypes through a contemporary perspective, reminiscent of Jonas Wood, Guy Yanai, Hillary Pecis, or Paul Wackers. Through the use of bright colours and razor-sharp line-work, his complex still lifes and floral scenes borrow from the annals of Classical Antiquity, the Baroque movement, and Modernism as well as his own repertoire of imagery.

Stoskopf's erudition toward art and its canon becomes fodder for his paintings; a sort of self-reflexive commentary on the very pedagogical tools that have kept the artist at bay are thereby dissected - or rather, the very compositional tools used for his paintings. That is to say his 'learning tools' become the material for his works. Art books on Picasso, Matisse, and contemporary 'blue-chip' artists are depicted as strewn haphazardly about a busy, albeit still interior space. Do these spaces belong to the artist himself, offering us a unique glimpse into the life and pursuits of a passionate young artist eager to engage in a greater context? Or are they fantastical narratives, carefully crafted based on his own artistic discoveries and advances?

The sheer flatness of the works references Stoskopf's so-called 'former life' as a graphic designer, but it is precisely that sensibility that lends itself to such vibrant paintings, teeming with energy and joie de vivre. Constructed like collages, Stoskopf's paintings use saturated and vibrant colours, remove shadows to heighten both their stylized and disconnect from reality, translating the three-dimensional world into block colours and flat lines, all while retaining the complexity of the image.

LORENT STOSSKOPF (1989, Rennes, France) is currently based in Brittany, France. The self-taught young artist holds a BA in Web and Graphic Design and an Advanced Technician Diploma in Communication from L'école Multimedia.

Solo exhibitions include: *I Feel Like Pablo*, Gärna Art Gallery, Spain (2023); *The Diaries of a Painter*, OTI Gallery, Hong Kong (2023) and *Eternal Flowers*, BEERS London (2021).

Group exhibitions and fairs include: Future Fair New York with Duran Mashaal Gallery (2022); Karen Gallery, Australia (2020); Antigalerie in Paris (2019) and *Master of Botanical*.