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THE ART NEWSPAPER

Workshop board, free-jazz and cult cinema



View of the exhibition "Lisa Yuskavage: Rendez-vous", David Zwirner, Paris, June 9-July 29, 2023.

© Lisa Yuskavage. Courtesy of the artist and David Zwirner

Gallery news

A selection of exhibitions offered in the galleries by the art critic Patrick Javault

Patrick Javault

16 juin 2023

Lisa Yuskavage: Date

For her first major Parisian exhibition, Lisa Yuskavage has chosen to explore the workshop painting and summarize some thirty years of her art. Red, green, or yellow workshop... each of these paintings constructs subtle games of space between a scene represented and older works appearing in the workshop. These paintings in the painting (from a self-portrait of the beginnings to a work in progress) are covered with the same colored filter or, on the contrary, make a hole in the figurative reality. The artist even goes so far as to replay, behind his easel, in the same space, one of his old paintings: a young painter examining his model very closely.

Quotations from Courbet, Matisse, or classic models slip into a universe directly inspired by the charming photos of the old *Playboy* : opulent breasts that bear the mark of the bra, long striped socks, romantic hair, a whole male fantasy that Yuskavage adapts without excess of feminist scruple. A touch of cartoon in the treatment of faces gives a character of poetic fantasy to these compositions of a rare frankness.

The Artist's Studio which first faces us when we arrive at this "Rendez-vous" is a large composition in green with, in its center, a woman in a nightie, pussy in the air, breast falling on the palette, whose the *cartoon* eyes instead of staring at us seem to be looking away with real or feigned innocence. Painter and model merge into a disconcerting figure. Behind her, a large mountain painting with an austere peasant woman and a suggestively posed Lolita, and yet another scene behind the painting, and workshop objects assembled in a certain order... We could not finish listing the levels of meaning and symbols. With a consummate art of color and light, Lisa Yuskavage questions the foundations of her work with unusual irony and strangeness.

From June 9 to July 29, [David Zwirner](#), 108 rue Vieille-du-Temple, 75003 Paris