

ANETTE HARBOE FLENSBURG

(b. 1961)

- Lives and works in Humlebæk. Works primarily with painting.

Anette Harboe Flensburg paints interiors. Figurative, formally based, designed mood- and memory rooms.

With only a few newer exceptions these intimate interiors are mostly empty of people. There is no motion in the living rooms, which is primarily taken in by anonymous furniture; chairs, curtains and mirrors. Or simply consist of walls with doorways. All is quiet. Our gaze wanders, gets lost, seeking an exit. We always find an indication of other rooms, like nature in the back, outside or next too. There is no entrance to access these worlds, but they are present as a part of these pictures ambiguous space. The surface of the canvas remains flat, while the artist leaves no traces of brush work. But there is depth in the interiors.

Anette Harboe Flensburg is preoccupied with perspective, levels and illusions of interior. Even though the starting point is figurative, the paintings seem almost abstract. The interior are designed as geometric patterns, while the blurred contours and the different inflow of light threaten to dissolve the image structure as well as the architecture. It is the dynamics of light and shadow which establishes the composition, and ensures the specific materiality of the paintings surface. At the same time this specific composition of light challenges the perception of space, as it makes it difficult decoding the basic structure. The picture elements do not follow a rational logic, and it is thus difficult to determine if the interiors depicts a world in a 1:1 ratio. The ongoing play with perspective solutions and repealing of the image plan also creates a sense of scale, and thus stages the physical parameter as a major player in the picture perception.

The paintings are made according to a model, a dollhouse or photo shoots of these. The rooms are so to speak real enough, but the artist's various expressions emphasize an inherent unreality. Like Gerhard Richter, Anette Harboe Flensburg is preoccupied with the relationship between painting and reality. Among others she uses photography as an effective mean to challenge representation. Her paintings function as windows to the outside world, but their structure also stages questions about what it means to look at a picture and what it actually represents. Anette Harboe Flensburg paints both the visible and the invisible. She conjures moods, feelings and memories with both structure, sensitivity, tremors and restlessness. Psychological concepts that cannot be materialized, but is omnipresent. It is both conscious and hard-core constructed, but there is also a romantic claim to establish metaphysics, a room behind the room. It is anything but formal surface painting, while it is in the spaces that everything takes place.

Please also refer Anette Harboe Flensburg's CV