



‘The Reality in Whytch You Create’ @ Studio West



Marking Studio West’s first group show since its opening in November 2021, *The Reality in Whytch You Create* crosses the moat and builds upon the idea of ‘once upon a time’ through the post-pandemic eyes of five emerging London artists, Sholto Blissett, Lydia Makin, Alfie Rouy, Anna Woodward, and Salomé Wu, all united by a common theme of world-building.

Disorienting and dizzying, a feeling similar to that of spinning in circles as a child, the surreal and the quotidian collide in an exploration of an altered and expanded reality inside the new Notting Hill space founded by curator Caroline Boseley and committed to championing new artists and fostering local community connection.

Hypnotic and haunting, *The Reality in Whytch You Create* displays an assemblage of paintings by Blissett, Makin, Rouy, and Woodward with video and sound work by Wu; all of which are equal parts eerie and sublime in their nature and traverse the line that connects reality to the imagined and utopia to dystopia.

Moving towards the back, Blissett’s distinctive and intricate surreal landscapes come into view. Transfixing the viewer, warmth radiates from his precisely constructed scenes created with a consistently neutral and natural colour palette, yet their ghostly stillness also brings an uneasiness - similar to when you anticipate a final step that isn’t there. Blurring the lines between structural and supernatural, the works are layered in both their meaning and their execution, with Blissett noting that the layering of paint is crucial to his practice and is also the most time-consuming part of his process.

With the construction of five different boundless realities that permeate the senses and flirt with the imagined, the tales of these five artists read like fables and cause viewers to think forward whilst in a liminal, hypnopompic state - the transitional space between sleep and wakefulness. What will the world look like when the hypothetical becomes reality? While this is indeterminate, one thing at Studio West is for certain - it’s their world, and we’re just temporarily living in it.

- Rhiannon Roberts