

LASCIVO

ELIZABETH PRENTIS

PRISMA STUDIO

R. da Palma 268

13.5.21 – 17.5.21

First solo show in Lisbon, Prentis relocated to Lisbon from London in October 2020. Elizabeth (b. UK) lives and works in Lisbon. She graduated with a BA in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Arts in 2016.

Elizabeth is currently exploring painting and is developing a body of 2D work with performative ties. This body of work explores societal gender expectation, sex, power–play, dominance and patriarchy. Bold and direct, Elizabeth's paintings are often confronting– challenging the audience on their own boundaries and expectations.

Prentis' usual practice straddles sculpture and performance. Choosing performance as a way to realise her sculptural works, she explores her struggle with the static nature of sculpture as a medium. This process can be tied to her painting style, working with big canvas requires an active connection to the making process, becoming highly performative in its making stage which can be seen in the energetic mark making and gestural strokes.

Building her own stretchers from warped timber creates a wonky, characterful effect. This is where Elizabeth's sense of humour comes into play, she makes an ironic jibe to the snobbery that comes with oil painting and its presentation. The building process is chaotic and intuitive, the stretchers becoming sculptures in themselves.

Lascivo, a title chosen which encompasses –**salacious, licentious, lascivious, lewdness**– *Lascivo* being the latin origin that links these English variations and derivatives. Whilst Prentis explores sexual pleasure and encourages discussion surrounding female pleasure, this particular body of work also opens dialogue which weighs on consent and vulnerability. The artist digests ideas of dominance, power play, gender expectation, patriarchy and trauma. This body of work aims to encourage a wider discourse surrounding sex, sexual exploration, respect and the importance of female pleasure.

Prentis' previous work is seen as a lot softer, more humorous and almost jovial in comparison to the current series of paintings. The paintings presented are jarring, direct and unsettled, most noticeably they are a vulnerable presentation of past sexual encounters. Hypersexual with a lewdness which comes from the artists personal experiences. Prentis explores oil on canvas for the first time and has surprised herself with the level of honesty in the work. Perhaps there is a correlation with the tactility and fluidity of oil which allows the emotional depth to manifest in the painting.







