

He May Kill Me

Robert Meldrum: Painting and Installation 2015 – 2019

10 August – 8 September 2019

Open Weds – Sun 11 am – 5 pm

Meet the Artist: Saturday 24 August, 1 – 3 pm, free. Informal Q & A drop-in session.

“For some people, things move from ‘I have a feeling, I want to call a friend’ to ‘I want to feel something. I need to make a call’ (...) This kind of behaviour used to be associated with early adolescents.”

- Sherry Turkle, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), 2006.

Working successfully in Baden Wittenberg, Germany since 2010 in a gallery located in the city centre of Mannheim, Robert Meldrum’s work is collected but not widely known in the U.K.

Created between 2015 and 2019, the artworks demonstrate a familiarity and feeling of ease with art historical methods. It’s an aspect of the work that is both inherent within and revisited afresh in this exhibition.

The hull of a spaceship, a riot of mythological creatures...the work originates from an amalgamation of computers, chess, modernism, Neo Dada, outer space, and industrial and natural landscapes. Each work embodies specific conceptual ideas packaged up in sharp changes of focus and unified by geometric line and approaches to colour.

“Meteors and Asteroids are very much their own thing but are respectful of Frank Stella. And that’s not a misreading of his intent. They act like homage for his navigation around what might be a content that was probably difficult. But that’s not what I do. I employ stuff to do its own thing by being respectful of what it did”

Inferred possibly in this description and in the show’s title is perhaps a connection to responsibility. ‘He may kill me’ is like a memo made to the self. Abstract landscapes follow the layout of road signs, while repeatedly taking you to one side of their original destination. A world is shown sealed off like an accident zone, its ocean literally a pool cover. People are shown only alluded to as presences, or in conflict, and the sculptures of animal life use household objects for a sense of immediacy, closeness and serenity, Rather than irony. Collectively these artworks act again and again as surrogates for the natural world, as a place of distance, space and quiet.