

## MEMORABILIA

ALAIN URRUTIA

After the collective event of 2020, Alain Urrutia (Bilbao, 1981) returns to the MAAB Gallery with a solo exhibition entitled Memorabilia, in which he displays his latest cycle of paintings, which take their lead from several objects which he collected for their symbolic value, in addition to their intrinsic qualities. As the artist himself stated, 'In these new works is represented the act of collecting and the way in which we give value and meaning to objects that apparently have none'.

The Basque artist, who now lives in Berlin, has carried out a pictorial project which invests its subjects with intense memory and an enigmatic and at times perturbing atmosphere originating in the very treatment of the depicted images: from the realism of their initial appearance, the images are immediately transformed into the ambivalences of a suspended mental representation, which finds its pictorial Wunderkammer in the idea of collecting.

In contrast to his past works, which are rigorously based on grey scales, these paintings were realised with a slight chromatic modulation which produces a sort of bas relief and stereoscopic effect. The oscillation of the perceptual field is here echoed in the psycho-emotional vibration triggered by these works, which thus manage to include subjective valences within the objectivity of representation.

In this exhibition, then, Urrutia continues his evocative personal journey around objects and modes of representation, challenging the viewer through playful allusions and emotive harmonies with the object observed in the painting. By means of this approach, which reveals as much as it cloaks in mystery, the artist presents a close-up view of the focal points of his works, moving abruptly from enlargement to distance. As occurs in the Memorabilia cycle, he thus rescues the objects from oblivion, returning them to the centre of attention and reapproaching them as delicate, suffused and memorial appearances.

**ALAIN URRUTIA** [Bilbao, 1981] lives and works in Berlin, Graduated at the Basque Country University and Academia Brera Milano in 2004.

Urrutia has exhibited at international Art Museums and Foundations, including the Boston Centre for the Arts, CA2M Madrid, Fundación Juan March in Palma de Mallorca and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

Urrutia is interested in the slow gaze of reality that occurs while he is painting.

He works in an intuitive way. The work he has carried out to date is closely related to the idea that in photography, the

reality becomes an image and it is subsequently translated into another reality when painted.



In his view, the goal is not to reproduce a mechanical/digital photograph into painting, but to build a pictorial image. The paintings are striking in their 'emotional impenetrability', they possess and produce a kind of silence, a demonstrable lack of legibility, even a difficulty that outstrips their subject matter per se. With this notion in mind he slows the process of perception in order to allow paths towards new interpretations from pre-existing images, urging the viewer to question their assumptions of what they are looking at.

### **Hard Facts**

MAAB Gallery

via Nerino 3 – 20123 Milano

From November 17<sup>th</sup> 2022 to January 27<sup>th</sup> 2023

Open from Monday to Friday, 10.30 am – 6 pm

Opening: Thursday, November 17 | 5 pm – 8 pm

### **Information**

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