

ANGELA DE LA CRUZ

Hermética Madrid

17.02 – 26.03.2022

I have been thinking about a space that is both protecting and imprisoning, just the way our homes felt during the lockdown. *Hermética Madrid* is about those spaces in tension between what is sealed, safe, controlled and the outside. Some of the works have been cut through; others have slightly expanded out of shape. I wanted these works to feel like they are lived in. Like all of us going through the pandemic, we are still the same, but we have changed, we are a bit damaged.

This show is sequel to *Hermetic* an exhibition made for Wetterling Gallery in Stockholm at the end of 2021. *Hermética Madrid* takes this idea further and plays with different colors, such as black, I very seldom use black color. Even though black represents all the colors together. I wanted the black to be as kinky, as possible. I am also experimental with focused light and how it reflects the paint, I am making everything look luxurious and sexy. This also controls the gaze.

LOOP SERIES

The last two years (2019-21) felt like time was on a loop, every day was a new day, but it was also just the same. The making of the *Loop* series follows a kind of commitment to time and repetition.

The making of these works involves stretching five canvases, priming them, then painting three layers of acrylic in each canvas, followed by three or four layers of oil paint (depending on the pigment), whilst sanding and waiting for the paint to dry between each layer. This process makes up five perfectly painted paintings that are afterwards cut up and reassembled together by nails to create one work. From the side, each *Loop* shows its many layers, creating an illusion of many images, however, they are all the same. Perhaps slightly different because they are handmade, but essentially the same. I wanted to convey the feeling of the pandemic, and how it has warped our idea of time.

CUT FRAME SERIES (Black) I and II

Made of aluminium, the *Cut Frame* series of works build from the ideas above, regarding time and repetition: they are made up of three panels of aluminium sandwiched together, creating an effect of layering and continuity. Nonetheless, these works are particularly focused on the action of trying to cut through that impasse of the present, to reach a new image beyond. They barely hold together but have sharp edges – they are resilient.

TRIPLE BOX CUT (Black)

Triple Box Cut (Black) is the first of a new series of box works that I have been developing for a while in aluminum. The size of these works refers to my height standing up, versus my height in the wheelchair. In this work, three boxes have been crushed together and forced into each other. Like a Russian Doll, they exercise the effect of a continuous loop. The top parts of the boxes are cut open, like the lid of a tin can, like the *Cut Frame*, the box is trying to breathe through the perfectly sealed hermetic environment.

TRANSFER TO 2021 (Fuchsia)

I have been developing the *Transfer* series for over a decade, they are referent to the transfer action that is required to move a person from a wheelchair to a sofa or a car, for example. The box that defines the space of the trajectory in the work is made of wood and the dimensions refer to my height.

Transfer to 2021 is a recycled work, from an older piece made in 2011. The title in this refers to passing of time from pre-pandemic world to post-lockdown. This work was subjected to a process of ageing by flooding its crate with water for several weeks and then laying it to rest outdoors in the sun. The wood warped and expanded; we adjusted the screws for the box to hold itself at its limit before potentially collapsing. Like the rest of the works in *Hermética Madrid*, I wanted this piece to show the passing of time, resilience, and a desire to cut through.

Ángela de la Cruz