

Lily van der Stokker

Thank You Darling

29 Apr/18 Sep

Lily van der Stokker (b. 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, 1954) is one of the Netherlands' most celebrated contemporary artists. Her monumental wall paintings – with their distinctive colour palette and highly decorative motifs, including flowers, clouds, patterns and curlicues – play on apparently clichéd stereotypes of femininity, but her work has a depth and toughness that belies its saccharine aesthetic. For more than 30 years van der Stokker has immersed herself in the supposedly mundane material of everyday life, taking seriously the intricacies of the small, the personal and the overlooked, while at the same time forging a radical feminist practice in a language she has made entirely her own. Behind its apparent softness and sincerity – once described as 'so sweet it can kill' – her work remains both provocative and radical. Optimism, joy, gossip and the petty trials

and tribulations of everyday life are given a wide berth in most artistic practices, whilst work which centres the domestic and decorative has traditionally been seen as the antithesis of serious contemporary visual art. Van der Stokker's work disrupts such hierarchical considerations, challenging conventional conceptions of artistic value and merit, whilst firmly positioning itself within the legacies of feminist, post-minimal and post-conceptual art. Despite its exuberance and frivolity, its disarming humour, and its bold celebration of the ugly, the sweet, the beautiful and the silly, her work takes itself and its subjects seriously; reclaiming themes and aesthetic languages that have been routinely devalued, derided and disparaged for centuries by a patriarchal culture that has consistently denigrated the feminine and feminised what it considered superfluous or 'other'.

Van der Stokker's works all begin their lives as small drawings on paper, a practice that has remained consistent throughout her career. She draws her images with an exacting care and precision, configuring them against one another for the specifics of each space, before scaling them up and executing them directly onto the gallery walls. This exhibition will bring together a group of works made by van der Stokker between 1986 and 2021, which address ideas of society, home, friendship, work, finances, illness and care. Encompassing wall paintings, as well as original drawings on paper and works on canvas, the exhibition spans a period of 35 years and provides an insight into van der Stokker's expansive practice, as well as speaking to this extraordinary contemporary moment. While some works have previously been realised in other contexts and spaces, others are presented across Camden Art Centre's galleries for the first time.

The exhibition extends into the Reading Room where van der Stokker presents a new slideshow of wall paintings and installations from the past 36 years, annotated by the artist, providing a comprehensive insight into van der Stokker's oeuvre to date. Following a time when we have all been forced to make drastic and once unthinkable changes to our lives, van der Stokker's longstanding engagement with the supposedly 'little' themes of family, relationships, work, home and the domestic, feel more appropriate, more timely and more important than ever.

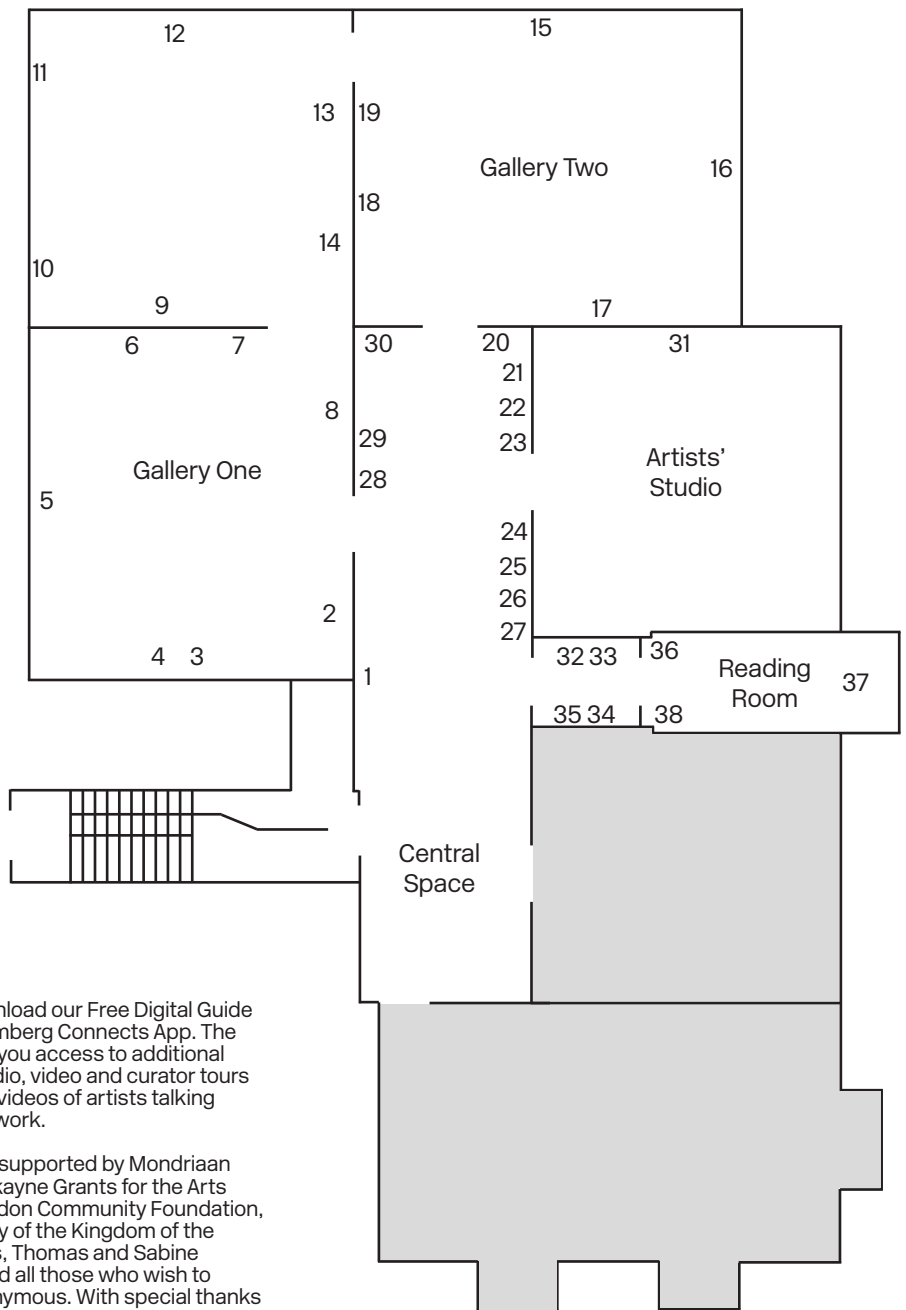
List of works

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|---|---|---|
| 01 <i>Thank You Wallpainting</i> , 1994-2022
Acrylic paint on wall and mixed media. Courtesy of the artist | 04 <i>M1</i> , 2017
Acrylic paint on linen.
Courtesy of the artist | 07 <i>No reason no goal</i> , 2014-2022
Acrylic on linen.
Courtesy of the artist |
| 02 <i>Miconizolnitrate 2</i> , 2019
Acrylic paint on wood.
Courtesy of the artist | 05 <i>Birthday (Jan)</i> , 1998-2022
Acrylic paint on wall and wood (with armchair).
Courtesy of the artist and Air de Paris, Romainville | 08 <i>suggested direction</i> , 1990
Acrylic on linen. Courtesy of the artist |
| 03 <i>Red Rashes on Face Not Itchy</i> , 2019-2022
Acrylic paint on wall and wood. Courtesy of the artist | 06 <i>No Improvement No Progress</i> , 2009-2022
Acrylic paint on wall and mixed media. Courtesy of the artist and Air de Paris, Romainville | 09 <i>Childcare</i> , 1991-2019
Acrylic paint on linen and panel. Courtesy of the artist and Air de Paris, Romainville |

List of works

- 10 *Jack and Lily 41 57*, 1999-2022
Acrylic paint on wall.
Courtesy of the artist
- 11 *Uncle Jean Aunt Annie* (design for wall painting with wooden objects), 2003
Colour pencil and pencil on paper. Courtesy of the artist
- 12 *Bibababyboomer*, 2003-2022
Acrylic paint on wall and mixed media. Courtesy of the artist
- 13 *Sleeping in the gallery*, 2008
Acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of the artist
- 14 *I Like Piece*, 2003-2010
Acrylic paint on wall and wood. Courtesy of the artist
- 15 *Art by Older People*, 1998-2022
Acrylic paint on wall and wood. Courtesy of the artist
- 16 *Income Tax*, 2003-2022
Acrylic paint on wall.
Courtesy of the artist
- 17 *Inheritance* (design for wall painting with block), 2003-2019
Colour pencil on paper.
Courtesy of the artist
- 18 *Retro Kitchen*, 2021-22
Acrylic paint on wall, wood and polyester with mixed media. Courtesy of the artist
- 19 *What is it?*, 1993-2022
Acrylic paint on wall and wood. Courtesy of the artist
- 20 *What is love*, 1989
Acrylic paint on wall and wood. Courtesy of the artist
- 21 *Hoi (colors)*, 1989
Acrylic on canvas.
Courtesy of the artist
- 22 *Baby Baby*, 1989
Acrylic on canvas.
Courtesy of the artist
- 23 *Man*, 1990
Acrylic on canvas.
Courtesy of the artist
- 24 *Lily is 41 Jack is 57* (design for wall painting and couch), 1998
Colour pencil on paper.
Courtesy of the artist
- 25 *Baby, Another Baby*, 2003
Colour pencil on paper.
Courtesy of the artist
- 26 *Can We Be Friends*, 2006
Colour pencil on paper.
Courtesy the artist and Air de Paris, Romainville
- 27 *Dankjewel Lieve Schat (thank you Sweetheart)*, 1994
Acrylic of linen panel.
Private Collection
- 28 *1989, 1988*
Acrylic on linen.
Courtesy of the artist
- 29 *Everything 1 Everything 2*, 1986
Acrylic on canvas.
Courtesy of the artist
- 30 *Friendly artwork*, 1990-2022
Acrylic on canvas.
Courtesy of the artist
- 31 *Loan*, 2003-2022
Acrylic paint on wall and wood.
Courtesy of the artist
- 32 *Parents* (design for wall painting), 2003-2022
Colour pencil on paper.
Courtesy of the artist
- 33 *Helma Breast Feeding* (design for wall painting and box), 2003
Colour pencil and pen on paper. Courtesy of the artist
- 34 *How About This* (design for wall painting in the corner), 2006
Colour pencil and pen on paper. Courtesy of the artist
- 35 *Extremely experimental art by older people* (design for wall painting), 2001-2022
Colour pencil and pen on paper. Courtesy of the artist
- 36 *Early Drawings*, 1989 – 1998.
Slideshow (duration: 41min)
Compiled by Camden Art Centre. Courtesy of the artist
- 37 *36 years of wall drawings*, 2019. Slideshow (duration: +/- 1 hour). Courtesy of the artist
- 38 *Archive material*, 1985-2009
Courtesy of the artist

Please do not touch
the artwork



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