

Karla Marchesi

Karla Marchesi's migration to Berlin has yielded significant developments in her aesthetic and conceptual concerns as a painter. Her recently completed six month studio residency at Atelierhaus Mengerzeile and subsequent decision to remain living and working abroad, has provided her with space to reflect on her practice in ways not previously possible whilst living in her hometown of Brisbane.

The exhibition, *Hang-Ups*, is the playful end product of Marchesi's dedicated experimentation during this time. These large-scale drawings with paint are indicative of Marchesi's technical desire to return back to the fundamentals of drawing and explore a more liberated painting processes. Though this body of work may appear as a significant formal departure from Marchesi's previous practice, this current collection demonstrates an extrapolation and refinement of an underpainting technique she has employed consistently over the last decade.

Referencing traditions of botanical drawing this collection sees Marchesi further her interest in contemporary still life painting. Rather than depicting flora with scientific accuracy and restraint, these curious paintings appear unearthly, animated and enlivened on the surface as leaves, branches and flowers emerge from often highly saturated, psychedelic grounds. In addition to these aesthetic concerns the personal nature of this collection lends the work depth and resonance.

Marchesi's recent move to Berlin prompted her to investigate her family's history of migration and attachment to home. Intimately probing the complexity inherent within familial relationships the exhibition *Hang-Ups* explores connections between objects, memory and place. Simultaneously sentimental and psychologically laden, these paintings pulse with layered references and symbolism. In many respects this series functions as a portrait of the artist's father by drawing on autobiographical imagery which is embedded with personal narratives and broader metaphoric associations.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body and marks Marchesi's second solo exhibition with Beam Contemporary.

Left to Right



Tower of Babel, 2013
Oil on composite board panels
140.3 x 200.4cm



Stuck with You, 2013
Oil on composite board panels
160.3 x 200.4cm



Helmet Planter 7, 2013
Oil on composite board panels
140.3 x 200.4cm



Rooted, 2013
Oil on composite board panels
200.6 x 70.2cm



Hang Ups 1, 2013
Oil on composite board panels
150.4 x 200.4cm



Hang Ups 2, 2013
Oil on composite board panels
140.25 x 150.25cm

Alcove



Helmet Planter 6, 2013
Oil on composite board panels
140.25 x 100.2cm

Office



Suckers, 2013
Oil on composite board panels
140 x 200.2cm

For available works, prices and all enquiries, please contact Simone Hine or Kyle Weise

simone@beamcontemporary.com.au | 0423 100 755

kyle@beamcontemporary.com.au | 0408 311 978



level 1, 30 guildford lane melbourne victoria 3000 australia
thursday to saturday 12 – 6

info@beamcontemporary.com.au | www.beamcontemporary.com.au | +61 3 9670 4443