

Present Tense

Amy Robson

Private View Thursday 19 September 2019

6 – 9 pm

Amy Robson is a British/American artist with a sustained commitment to painting as a medium, using its possible spatial and figurative ambiguities to explore contemporary disquiet. Her new work is a celebration of painting in response to specific places – Lisbon, London, Wiltshire and America – experienced in the here and now. The series of over 30 oil paintings eschews the nostalgia of the past and the anxiety over the future to revel in the possibilities of paint in real time.

Present Tense is a collection of landscape paintings in the New Romantic tradition which germinated from a residency in Lisbon in March 2019. Through the laser focus that results from living in a new environment, Robson created work that posits significance onto the commonplace; and she brought that focus back to her more familiar surroundings. For example, a series of paintings of the Tagus river basin spawned a prolific examination of the Thames river and the Barn Elms Boat Club in particular. Similarly, Robson's *Route 1* series uses an iterative drawing and painting process to reflect her love/hate relationship with America. Suburban strip malls are a source of disgust as photos before being rendered lovingly in charcoal. The resulting paintings with their push/pull of spatial arrangements and mark-making techniques are a manifestation of this ambivalence.

Born in America (Pittsburgh, PA), Amy Robson has lived in the UK for over twenty years. She holds a Master's in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Arts (UAL) and was recently awarded a month-long residency at PADA Studios in Lisbon, Portugal. Her work is held in private collections in Europe and the USA.

www.amyrobson.co.uk