

Blue Shop Gallery

72 BRIXTON ROAD

EAENE
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Manon Steyaert

1st - 18th June 2023

@BLUESHOPCOTTAGE | BLUESHOPCOTTAGE.COM

Manon Steyaert

BA Central St Martins | MA Chelsea College of Art

For her first solo exhibition at Blue Shop Gallery, Manon Steyaert presents a new body of work: 'Cache-Cache'. Born 1996, Steyaert is a French-British artist working in London. Her practice is situated between the two worlds of painting and sculpture. With a strong background in fashion, the artist pays homage to both traditional and non-traditional mediums throughout her practice.

Taking inspiration from her childhood in France, notably the game 'cache-cache' (hide-and-seek), Steyaert visually manifests sensory memories, adolescent curiosity and our ever present human desire to search for the hidden. Steyaert suggests a direct relationship between pure childish pleasure and her process of creating art objects, and in doing so seeks to affect a viewer's perception of painting and sculpture.

Interested in the limbo-state between two mediums, Steyaert creates work that intertwines elements from both, allowing her to proudly hang works on the boundary line, creating a discourse examining the limitations and freedoms of the complex space that exists between dimensions. Primarily utilising silicone, Steyaert uses the material as a playful depiction of canvas, questioning its role within painting. Must we adhere to art historical context or can the painted surface extend past its natural expectation? For this exhibition, large scale silicone works are mounted traditionally on stretcher bars, but her hanging structures also expand to perspex and oak. 'Cache-Cache' introduces a new element of Steyaert's practice: using transparent acrylic frames in which silicone strips are woven in and out of, rather than the classical draping over a wooden frame. These new works challenge the nature of the relationship between work and wall. Steyaert's interrogation is of structure and its relationship to surface: stretcher bars are painted white to sink into the gallery wall in chameleon-esque fashion, acrylic structures are removed of pigment and transparent to allow silicone to float in space. Work extends further into the gallery space than before, permitting a wider viewpoint for the viewer to engage with. The structural transparency grants the surface an appearance of levitation and can even disappear from eyesight when gazed upon from certain angles.

Through her mature investigations of material, the work is granted intelligence and agency: it can choose to manifest itself, or in fact hide... The structural oscillation between space and non space encourages the works, they themselves, to engage in a game of cache-cache with the viewer. Just as she pulls taught silicone over various materials, she also pulls taught the boundaries of our expectation, creating a tense metaphorical surface for our questions and curiosities to bounce across.


Steyaert also includes framed works on paper, often used to test colour and movement, as well as possible draping shapes; they serve as an insight into the planning process used for realising her larger works. Tissue paper is used as the painted surface to emulate the transparency further communicated in the larger works and, watered down acrylic paint is used to explore a natural flow of brush. The more traditional use of the paint medium at this early stage of development allows dynamic gestures to infiltrate the silicone work where this freedom of hand is less present.

Steyaert connotes the materiality and form of silicone, particularly when draped, to ideologies and visual language relating to the feminine. Her recent investigations of colour, exploration of rounder forms and inclusion of transparencies draw on this to create a whole that romanticises the feminine.

The colours that infiltrate 'Cache-Cache' are hazy, allowing light to penetrate surface. Structural investigations allow surface to float in space. The multicoloured silicone sheets allow variations of colour to play together, allow forms to dance between folds, falling in and out of perception, enriching the viewer's gaze, simulating a game of cache-cache.







*“Pulled towards sun reactions on sweet pastels. An endless gaze.
Soft pigmented surfaces passing. Overflowing bodies kiss.
Hiding and revealing colour within”*

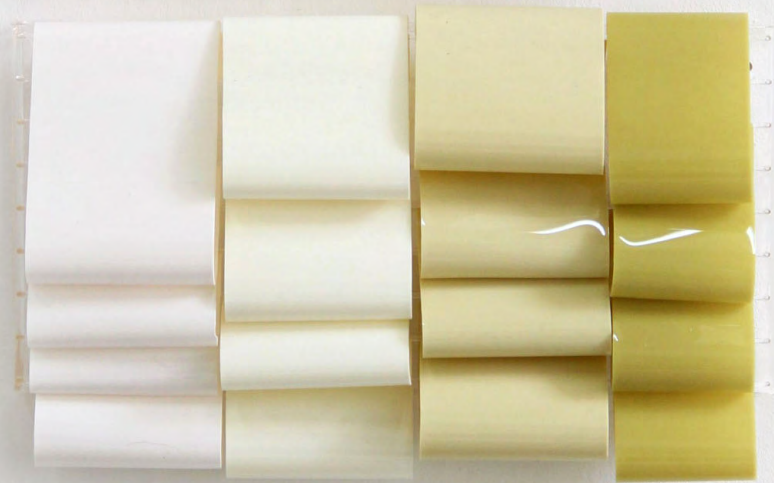
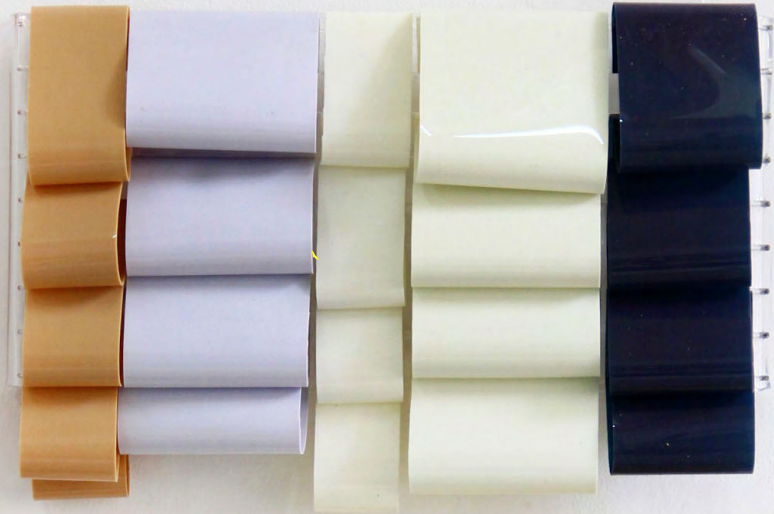
- Maddie Rose-Hills on ‘Cache-Cache’













1. 'Haze I'
2023
60 x 80cm
Silicone and pigment
£3,120 inc VAT



2. 'Wrap around me'
2023
30 x 30 x 115cm
Acrylic, oak, silicone and pigment
£3,360 inc VAT



3. 'Gentle games I'

2023

24 x 41.5 x 2.7cm - framed size

Paper, tissue paper and acrylic paint
framed in cherry

£600 inc VAT



4. 'Cover your eyes I'
2023
40 x 60cm
Silicone and pigment
£1,920 inc VAT



5. 'Cover your eyes II'
2023
40 x 60cm
Silicone and pigment
£1,920 inc VAT



6. 'Cover your eyes III'
2023
40 x 60cm
Silicone and pigment
£1,920 inc VAT



7. 'No peaking now III'
2023
25 x 30cm
Silicone and pigment
SOLD



8. 'I see you!'
2023
100 x 130cm
Silicone and pigment
£6,600 inc VAT



9. 'Gentle games II'
2023
24 x 41.5 x 2.7cm - framed size
Paper, tissue paper and gouache paint
framed in cherry
£600 inc VAT



10. 'Gentle games III'
2023
24 x 41.5 x 2.7cm - framed size
Paper, tissue paper and gouache paint
framed in cherry
£600 inc VAT



11. 'J'arrive! I'
2023
70cm x 100cm
Silicone and pigment
£3,360 inc VAT



12. 'J'arrive! II'
2023
70cm x 100cm
Silicone and pigment
£3,360 inc VAT



11 & 12. 'J'arrive! I and II'
2023
140cm x 100cm
Silicone and pigment
Diptych
£6,000 inc VAT



13. '1,2,3'

2023

30 x 100 x 10cm

Acrylic, silicone and pigment

£4,200 inc VAT



14. 'Behind the curtains'
2023
50 x 70cm
Silicone and pigment
£2,760 inc VAT



15. 'Spring Haze'
2023
30 x 40cm
Silicone and pigment
£1,200 inc VAT



16. 'Woven silicone I'
2023
41 x 25 x 7cm
Acrylic, silicone and pigment
£792 inc VAT



17. 'Woven silicone II'
2023
41 x 25 x 7cm
Acrylic, silicone and pigment
£792 inc VAT



18. 'Between the window and shutter'
2023
30 x 30 x 120cm
Oak, silicone, pigment and acrylic
£3,600 inc VAT



19. 'You're staring'
2023
70 x 90cm
Silicone and pigment
£3,840 inc VAT



20. 'No peaking now II'
2023
25 x 30cm
Silicone and pigment
£792 inc VAT



21. 'Cuisine D'été'
2023
80 x 130cm
Silicone and pigment
£6,000 inc VAT



22. 'Gentle games IV'

2023

24 x 41.5 x 2.7cm - framed size

Paper, tissue paper and acrylic paint
framed in cherry

£600 inc VAT



23. 'Gentle games V'

2023

24 x 41.5 x 2.7cm - framed size

Paper, tissue paper and acrylic paint
framed in cherry

£600 inc VAT



24. 'Gentle games VI'

2023

24 x 41.5 x 2.7cm - framed size

Paper, tissue paper and acrylic paint
framed in cherry

£600 inc VAT



25. 'Lets play a game of hide and seek'
2023
20 x 30cm
Acrylic, silicone and pigment
SOLD



26. 'Wrap around you'
2025
30 x 30 x 100cm
Oak, silicone, pigment and acrylic
£3,360 inc VAT



27. 'Cache Cache I'
2023
60 x 80 x 10cm
Acrylic, silicone and pigment
£3,960 inc VAT



28. 'No peaking now I'
2023
25 x 30cm
Silicone and pigment
£792 inc VAT



29. 'Cache Cache II'
2023
30 x 50 x 10cm
Acrylic, silicone and pigment
£1,980 inc VAT

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If you would like to purchase any of the works by Manon Steyaert

please contact the team on hello@blueshopcottage.com