

Francesca Gabbiani

Opening
Saturday 7 March 2020
6.30 pm

Exhibition
7.3.2020 – 11.4.2020

Hours
Tuesday – Saturday
3 – 7 pm

We are pleased to announce a solo show by Los Angeles based artist Francesca Gabbiani, known for her luminous paper collages depicting interiors and landscapes charged with a subtly uncanny atmosphere, often inspired by film backdrops or horror movies.

Francesca Gabbiani's working methods are complex as layers of paper are intricately cut out and collaged on top of one another. The process is a breaking down of an image through color and then reconstructing that same image through stratifications. These layers create a depth and perspective that is both painterly and sculptural. Gabbiani directs the material, colored paper, to have dramatic effects.

The show in Zuoz presents her most recent body of work and research. The artist has been strongly moved by the sudden and persistent blazing of fires that have hit California during the last few years - impressed by the degree of danger as well as by a sort of apocalyptic beauty: "I moved to Silver Lake from Echo Park around 2000 and Griffith Park caught fire when I was living across from it. I started to paint these fires. It seemed like a good time to start making landscape paintings because the landscape was completely changing and I was trying to make sense of these changes and to make it more abstract almost as a coping mechanism. The fires are so intense that I find the need to transform them so I can live with them. I became interested, and still am, in forgotten or transforming urbanism, those spaces that are part of the idea of a forgotten city inside the city. Spaces where things aren't taken care of or neglected. I mix all of these contradictions in the drawings, which I make with colored ink, airbrush and intricately cut paper. Some of this paper appears to float or fall off the piece, which references the context of fires and destruction and fragility of the landscape and also draws attention to the technique. It's a very precarious urbanist equilibrium in this city, one wind in one direction or another can burn everything down."

Francesca Gabbiani lives and works in Los Angeles. She was born in Montreal (1965) and grew up in Geneva, Switzerland, where she attended the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux Arts and obtained for three times in a row the Swiss Federal Award of Art. She has had a mid-career retrospective at the Centre PasquArt in Bienne, Switzerland and has been featured at Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles and the Kunstverein Wolfsburg, Germany. Her works are part of important collections such as: Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMa and Yale University Gallery Collection in New York, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and the Hammer.