

Galleri Riis

SOFIA EKSTRÖM

Shut the light

January 14 – February 11, 2017

I want to extinguish the light that spreads from the photographs from the past. Obstruct colour. Shut the light.

Sofia Ekström's exhibition deals with the alchemy of image development. She moves between the different habitats of image reproduction; photography's inherent complications and of painting's potential. The white cube becomes a dark room with a red hue in the paintings; a filter in a sensitive development process.

This is about the development of nothing: a comment to memories in photographs being just an image. The content of the paintings and installation objects are far from given. The viewers evoke their own images and memories.

To manoeuvre in photography

To escape the photographic language without succeeding

Ekström does not opt out of any means of expression but cannot help make room for photography in the painted. She does not give the viewer a simple perception of light or darkness. Rather it is manifested in a kind of transparent object painted in white, turned black by light.

The white colour in the paintings is hidden and comes forward to respond to the light that surrounds it.

The process and concept of Ekström's earlier photographs, with their painterly form, can here be seen as inverted: painting obtaining the form of photography in close dialogue with a photographic spirit and sense of colour. The paintings are mounted on aluminium, flat with sharp edges. They are body and thought combined and made manifest in the space. This is an exhibition about light and shadow, negative and positive, filtered through art history, personal history and metaphors of photographic development.

An urge to pull down the curtain

Shut the light is Sofia Ekström's (b. 1978, Stockholm) second solo exhibition at Galleri Riis Stockholm.