

Under the clouds of her eyelids

Kaye Donachie

and James Broughton, Claude Cahun, Josette Exandier,
Florence Henri, Lee Miller

18.05–23.07.2017

Opening Wednesday 17 May, from 6 to 9 pm

Curator : Xavier Franceschi



A world in your image, Kaye Donachie, 2017

© Kaye Donachie. Courtesy Maureen Paley, London.

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At le plateau, frac Île-de-france presents the first solo exhibition devoted to the British artist Kaye Donachie in France. Born in Glasgow in 1970, Kaye Donachie lives and works in London. Kaye Donachie has developed paintings studded with literary references in which her fascination for real and fictional heroines comes to life.

Donachie's paintings distil and redeem historical images of specific female protagonists and sense of place. The narratives within the paintings are given structure by the visceral sensation of colour, outline and intensity of surface. Donachie revisits people and places that acted as a magnet for the convergence of ideas and experiments in avant-garde aesthetics and living. Historical and specific locations such as the French Riviera or Monte Verità in Switzerland created enclaves acting as an artistic retreat and the scenes of particular refuge. Her paintings use portraiture and landscape to figure reformist philosophies, and weave a feminine counter narrative.

In Kaye Donachie's artwork the subjects seem to dissolve into a haze as a result of her unique, light and concise touch, and her limited but subtle range of colours. A tonality often prevails through shades, hues and intensities of colour. Overlapping tonal planes and images bestow an enigmatic atmosphere upon her canvases. The interwoven temporal images also incorporate a cinematic dimension, opening up the sphere of possibilities to those viewing them. Although the human figure is central to her work, it is above all a pretext for the composition of a mental landscape where intense sensations emerge on the canvas.

The exhibition will for the first time include works drawn from collections by a number of historical artists. Here, photographs, drawings and film (James Broughton, Claude Cahun, Josette Exandier, Florence Henri, Lee Miller) that inform Donachie's work, will actively contribute to a counter narrative, one in which the spaces of images dissolve into one another in the manner of an elliptical poem or conversation through time.

Born in Glasgow in 1970, Kaye Donachie achieved a Master of Arts at the Royal College of Art in London in 1997 after studying at the University of the Arts in Berlin (1996) and at the University of Central England in Birmingham (1992). Her work was displayed in several solo exhibitions notably in 2004 at the Artists Space in New York. In addition she also took part in many group exhibitions including *If Everybody had an Ocean: Brian Wilson: An Art Exhibition* (Tate St Ives, CAPC de Bordeaux, 2007) and *Tate Triennial* (Tate Britain, London, 2006). The frac Île-de-france recently acquired one of her works that was included in the exhibition *Un mural, des tableaux*. She is represented by Maureen Paley Gallery, London.

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Entrée libre

Exhibition opened from Wednesday to Sunday, 2-6 pm.
Late openings « plateau-apéro », each 1st Wednesday of the month, until 9 pm.

