



GALERIE  
VIRGINIE  
LOUVET

ISEULT PERRAULT  
*HORTUS*

Exhibition: June 10 – July 10, 2021

Inauguration: June 10, 2021 from 2 pm to 10 pm in presence of the artist



Iseult Perrault  
*Hortus B (detail)*, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
130 x 160 cm

Iseult Perrault gathers images from her strolls in museums and parks, when she travels, or when she explores the Internet. The artist compiles these images of natural elements in a massive database which continuously enriches her work. Selecting a unique detail, shape, or color, she then reinterprets, distorts, or transforms it on canvas. For her first dedicated exhibition at the Virginie Louvet gallery, Iseult Perrault invites visitors to wander around an imaginary garden. Some shapes originate from memories, a key element of her paintings which are mostly evocative, not striving to replicate reality. Painting allows Iseult Perrault to claim these shapes, detaching them from any context and giving them a proper and independent existence within a created landscape. Each element gains a sensible value, an origin, a story that accompanies the memory of its discovery. The powerful fantasy she brings to life lies within the origin of the garden itself, a utopian place that allows for the idea of a great narration.

The art of gardening can be assimilated to a pictorial art as it offers an artificial representation of a concrete subject. It explores symbolic representations of air, earth and water through shadows and light. Like the painter, the gardener listens and interprets a natural system, adapting its specific language and mechanisms by inserting their own jargon.

Ager and Hortus are two models of constructed natural spaces. While Ager refers to a horizontal space for agriculture and cultivation, Hortus suggests a garden, a three dimensional and vertical forest, with wild, lush, and opulent lines. Following the Hortus model means creating complex landscapes highly reminiscent of forests. The garden, though a representation of Nature, also obeys certain rules of architecture. Passing fountains, wells, walls and bushes, people must be able to linger, and create stories. Iseult Perrault expresses such contrasts with *Hortus*. Using acrylic, the artist transforms the gallery in a utopian garden. The rectangular paintings, with the juxtaposition of flat tints and shading as construction material, encase a luxuriant forest. The gallery's space itself reflects these separations as the arches divide the two sets of works, with ranges of color lacking any sign of architecture on one side and constructed paintings on the other. The latter can be experienced with the three pieces side by side, or in six different layouts. The concept of this series plays with the idea of a workshop and with the display area. Last but not least, the mirror cards on the floor allow a dialogue between the paintings, all the while imitating a Persian garden. The traditional fountain in the center would reflect the surrounding Nature, as people would play music and narrate stories.

Laurence Favez

Born in 1993 in France, Iseult Perrault lives and works between London and Paris.