

**PRESS RELEASE**

***Something From Nothing***

**Olivia Parkes**

Solo Show

**13.10.23 – 13.10.23**

**C+N Gallery CANEPANERI** is delighted to present *Something From Nothing*, Olivia Parkes's first solo show with the gallery, in Milan.

*Something from Nothing* premieres a new body of work that investigates painting as a portal: a passage between inner and outer realms, form and emptiness, this world and the next. Underpinning the works is a playful understanding of the long history of painting conceived as a window. But upon closer inspection, Parkes's windows are broken, or perhaps they're doors, though the doors won't open. The paintings by turns suggest and prevent the possibility of passage. Equally, scenes that appear familiar soon reveal themselves as constructed or unstable: shadows and reflections don't quite belong to the objects that cast them. The works on view invite on the one hand the collapse of recognition, and on the other mirror the strangeness of the world at large.

From Timmy Straw's critical essay:

*...The whole assembly of Parkes's motifs: mirrors, doors, windows, cages, feathers, fable-animals, the static ring-dances of trees: images and objects that at once signal and foreclose lines of flight, forms of passage, entry, of escape both psychic and material. These recurring motifs also sign the inversion of given laws, so that reality is presented to us as the flaw or error in the collecting surface of the eye, the mind, the mirror. In a similar impulse toward inversion, these paintings are quite literally full of holes, which, like contronyms—words signifying two categorically opposite things—simultaneously invoke both the void and the ovoid, the abyss and the egg (the black hole and the eye's pupil; the cave's mouth and the moon's body; the round of a shadow and the round of a lake). What is nothing and what is something? Which witch is which?*

**Critical Essay by Timmy Straw**

Opening Reception

**September 13<sup>th</sup>, 6.00 pm**

Foro Buonaparte, 48 – 20121 Milan

**Olivia Parkes** is an artist and writer based in Berlin. She holds degrees from Wesleyan University, Berlin University of the Arts, and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Recent exhibitions and performances include Mountains, Berlin (2022), Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin (2021); Dorothea Konwiarz Stiftung, Berlin (2021/22); C+N Gallery CANEPANERI, Milan (2019/21); Gussglashalle Berlin (2019); Hannah Barry Gallery, London (2019); Stadium, Berlin (2017), and Berlin Masters (2016). Her writing has appeared in magazines such as Tin House, Zyzzyva, The Baffler, and Electric Literature, among other publications. She is the recipient of awards and fellowships from the *Elizabeth George Foundation*, the *Dorothea Konwiarz Stiftung*, and the *Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa*, Berlin.

**Timmy Straw** is a poet and translator living in Philadelphia. Their poems appear in the *Paris Review*, *Yale Review*, *Annulet*, and Harper's, and their first book, *The Thomas Salto*, is forthcoming on *Fonograf Editions* in fall 202