Liz Rideal

Ethereal Twins (enshrouded presence)

Blue *Dolomites*, 2024.

An exhibition at ken artspace https://www.kenart.space/ 16 Windmill Row London SE11 5DW
5 October - 23 November 2024 11.00 - 17.00 Thurs & Fri 11.00 - 16.00 Sat
Watercolours on Atlantis Giant Paper 400gsm, 121.9cm x 152.4cm

Cloud formations at dusk beside the sea and Fantin-Latour's (1836-1904), *L'Aurore et la Nuit*, are the conceptual inspirations behind these large abstract watercolours. Suspended pigment particles mix, stain and shift both visually and physically across a field of white rag paper. Overlays of colour suggest - through smudge and nudge - amorphous twinned shapes. Gradual concatenations construct imagined land- and cloud-scapes: a meditation on the urge to create from barely anything at all.

Technically, Rideal's recent images juggle the unpredictability of paint in the manner of Frankenthaler, exploring the delicate medium of watercolour on a large surface, coupled with the chance results of decalcomania. Intuitive manipulation, mixing and layering of colour into wet or dry surfaces offer surprising combinations and effects.

In another type of symmetry, two watercolours are rendered in transparent silk, one viewed at the relative distance between the gallery window and its back wall, the second suspended with a small space between silk print and watercolour. This installation references the focal length of the camera eye and furthers the analogy with translucent layering.

'Decalcomania' was the name the Surrealists gave to the process of creating Rorschach-type images by trapping paint between two sheets of paper. The emphasis was on chance and the potential identification of imagery (similar to seeing abstract shapes become specific forms within cloud patterns, in the manner of Polonius's exchange with Hamlet, 'Very like a camel'…)

Mindscape (mauve) 2024.

Liz Rideal, *Sky Peach (twin & flower), 2024*.

Henri Fantin-Latour (1836-1904), *L'Aurore et la Nuit*, Birmingham Museums Trust

Liz Rideal is an artist and writer living in London. Professor at the Slade School of Fine Art.
www.lizrideal.com

Rideal has exhibited widely in museums and galleries in Europe and America. Her artwork is held in public collections including Tate; Victoria & Albert Museum; British Museum; The National Portrait Gallery; The Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada; Museet for Fotokunst, Denmark; Portland Art Museum, Oregon; The George Eastman Museum; The Yale Centre for British Art; Los Angeles County Museum; The Philadelphia Art Museum and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.
Rideal has received a Leverhulme Fellowship, a British Academy Award and a Scholarship at the British School at Rome. Her publications include books on self-portraiture, portraiture and a best-seller: *How to Read Painting, (Bloomsbury, 2014)*.