

10. Ans Debije - Surprise

A bold central and symmetrical composition. A simple subject put down in beautiful harmonious tones and with a strong fabric expression. The small work, despite its small size, takes on a monumental appearance through the firm brush strokes and strokes of the palette knife. It is intimate and powerful at the same time. It is coarsely set up and yet, especially when viewed from a distance, it suggests realism. From a distance the color patches fade into a single entity.

9. Tanya Atanasova - Lou

An almost surrealistic painting because of the literal and figurative breaking through of the realistic portrait. On the one hand it is technically very well painted and on the other hand it is broken down again. The shortenings are all very well done. You are drawn in by the look of the model and at the same time distance is created by the dismantling of the painting. The loose hair around the head creates a connection to the background. The chips and cracks in the face refer to the craquelé in old oil paintings. In addition, the work raises all sorts of intriguing questions such as: 'Who are we really under the superficial layer of varnish?' 'How do we carefully build our self-image or how do we break it down?'

8. Tanja Swart - Flower Still Life 2.1

The originality of this painting lies, among other things, in the brutal cutting off of the vases, but also in the uniform peculiar gray background as well as the comic book-like, alienating aspect of the flowers. Are they artificial flowers? Is there a tiny pink piggy bank on one of the flowers? The interplay of the artificial and realistic is very exciting. As a result, the painting continues to intrigue with each renewed viewing. Moreover, from a technical point of view, it is very cleverly and attentively painted.

7. Amanda Waite - Living Cairn

A painting with very exciting use of materials, as well as the variation in them. The same goes for the use of color in the blue versus the orange. The motif of the dress flows very naturally into an illustrative and decorative background without breaking the style. The fish give an almost surreal aspect to the painting yet at the same time form a very organic whole with the rest of the work. Thus, the work consists of several technical and painterly parts without fragmenting. In fact, all parts add an extra dimension to the work.

6. db Waterman - Child in time

We see a green paradise jungle versus the urban jungle of industrialization. There are many different techniques and styles used in this painting. The graphic and realistic construction cranes, the abstract template-like silhouettes, the transparent green of the leaves. It is cleverly done how these different stylistic elements form a balance. This is partly because the artist stopped at the right moment, preventing the image from filling up and getting lost. It is also nice how the two different worlds are visualized by using the round shapes of nature in contrast with the clean lines of the urban environment.

5. Guus van Lingen - Max the redhead kid with the freckles

A very dramatic portrait, especially because of the photo-realistically painted eyes and mouth. The pale skin still has a lot of depth because the underlying and subcutaneous green background shines through, as it were. The hyper-realistic style of the eyes and mouth stands in stark contrast to the coarser painted hair and the sketchy collar that blends into the background of which the green color is perfectly chosen.

4. Ellen van Dijk - Blue

The jury was very pleasantly surprised by this stained glass painting. Not only because of the unique choice of materials, but also because of the very clever execution. The break in the style of the lines makes the work very exciting. The abstract pattern of the "background" is in stark contrast to the undulating realism of the portrait in the "foreground". It is also very subtly done how a few hairs of the portrait are broken loose from the round shape and thus make a connection with the background. The effect of underlying light brings the whole work even more to life.

3. Zivile Jasutyte - Step

A very exciting and bold composition with an extreme close up and cropping of a landscape. In fact, it is a strip of grass bordered by snow from which, symbolically, a young shoot of green and an old branch shoot out. But the tension between the two halves of the painting lift it much further above the ordinariness of this seemingly simple scene. The "emptiness" and the variation in it is at least as important and strong as the grass in the background where all sorts of things also seem to be happening. The dichotomy also seems to carry the necessary symbolism: poor versus rich, new versus old, and so on. All in all, this is an almost abstract work that is very intriguing both at a distance and up close.

2. Anutosh – Diepe doorkijk in het kikkerland (aka Deep vista into the frog land)

This is another small painting of only 30 x 30 centimeters yet very theatrical and monumental. The subtle depth effect gives you the feeling that you can really enter this fantasy world. The painting contains very cleverly realistic parts with a strong fabric expression versus very abstract painted parts. It is both spatially painted and flat at the same time, as for example the two magenta spheres. The painting shows a very strong material and technique mastery of both acrylic and oil paint.

1. Seppe de Meyere - I dreamt of Paris again last night

A compositional perfectly balanced portrait with many functional details that are not noticeable at first glance. The lamp in the background, the fish shapes on the left, the abstracted logo on the sweater, the fragments of chair and cups, the blue glasses, the yellow/blue shapes at the center of the lower part of the painting, and so on. The fun and boldness in painting splashes from all these details as well as from the entire painting. The painter has a very good sense of form which he plays with at the same time. The technical shortening of the hand, for example, is perfectly executed and then suddenly the viewer discovers "the third arm" which comes across very naturally and is not disturbing either, as if a movement is being recorded. The painting has a very contemporary look and breathes a kind of Instagram atmosphere: #nofilter. The green background works its way into the hair and functions as a strong repoussoir for the portrait. The painting does not get boring and remains exciting at every glance. Even the red of the sweater is nowhere the same. In fact, the painting seems to get better with each new look.