

*Exposition "Fragments Intimes" Anne-Sophie Fontenelle*

*Aporia gallery Brussels, January 27 – February 17, 2018*

*Vernissage January 27 in Aporia gallery Brussels*

Anne-Sophie Fontenelle is a Belgian artist born in Charleroi in 1977. She lives and works in Liège, Belgium.

The drawings and oil paintings of Anne-Sophie Fontenelle have one thing in common: whether in portraits or in landscapes, they have a starting point from within. They originate from an internal instant, from an inside sentiment. It is from the interior self, the inner I that the artist imagines landscapes and portraits.

These landscapes are no literal translations of experiences into a visual reference. They seem absorbed expressions of memories into a formal narrative. This narrative of the artist becomes visible and real in the process of creating the images of landscapes, interiors, objects and portraits. The artist tries to recall and express past atmospheres in oil paintings by using traditional painter's materials such as supports and (sometimes) frames, and painterly techniques (sfumato, open and unfinished surfaces, backgrounds, lavis and unpronounced colors in landscapes, backgrounds and lively colors in portraits etc.). The artist is applying an impressionist approach in technique and she is adding a 'lived through' layer. It seems that the artist is searching for an undetermined meaning in her visual expressions. As if she is giving new personal insights to past thoughts, she is complementing these past experiences – the artist is working through memory recollections.

Fontenelle's work is highly intimate, sensitive and sensible. The paintings are reflections acting as an invitation for consideration or (even) for an introspection in the eye of the beholder. The works offer undefined opportunities in their reception. The paintings communicate an openness and at the same time, they seem to close down on themselves as if nothing more needs to be said. It is at this point that a more profound investigation seems obvious and that we (in the end) discover that the subject of the landscapes (as well as the portraits) are identical; we are looking at the inner painter. From different contexts we look at images of the artist to witness inside perspectives captured in each image.

The artist is interested in framing the fragility and brittleness of the physical world that we see in our present lives: the artist's effort consists of catching and holding the glimpse of a memento before it fades away. Fontenelle paints this precise moment as she knows that it will be disappearing just as it is turning into visual poetry. Here the work acts as a contemplative invitation to un-robe the full perspective and make visible hidden harmonies. At this point, the paintings gain an aura and become authentic both in time and place: it uncovers the artist's artistry.

Bart Roefmans, Brussels, 24 December 2017.