KRISTIAN EVJU

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Lives and works in London

INTERVENTIONS - INCRIMINATIONS

Interventions is a series of drawings and paintings investigating early 20th century archives of female mugshots.

There is currently a growing suspicion towards information, and an increased disillusionment towards our own recording of reality. We don't trust images fully anymore.

In Interventions I wanted to explore a purely visual investigation of the moment between freedom and incarceration – and to use archival photo-research as factoids, re-represented as fictions. The idea of an image as avatar is familiar to us through social media profile pictures, passport photos and video games, and we have gotten used to feeling in control of how we present ourselves – but the mugshot is an interesting antithesis to this

idea. The individual is documented clinically in what often is a low point in their lives, and the format of the mugshot is so strongly associated with individuals with a criminal background that US courts try to avoid showing them to the jury so as to not prejudice them against defendants. I am trying to rewrite these moments in my work by combining visual facts from different mugshots into fictional representations, thus perhaps protecting the referenced individuals, and in some cases transporting them into completely new environments. I make sure that I know nothing about the individual when I use their faces as references, thus making the found imagery the only sources of information.





Incriminations III Morst (11033)

2017/18 30 x 40 cm Pencil and acrylic on paper





Incriminations III Incriminations IV

2017/18 30 x 40 cm Pencil and acrylic on paper





Incriminations VI Incriminations VII

2019 30 x 40 cm Pencil and acrylic on paper





Incriminations VIII
Incriminations IX

2019 30 x 40 cm Pencil on paper





Interventions V Interventions VI

2019 23 x 18 cm Acrylic on paper/ wood





Interventions X
Interventions XI

2021 23 x 18 cm Acrylic on paper/ wood Interventions X & XI were painted specifically for Small is Beautiful XXXIX at Flowers Gallery, 2021 - and in these two paintings I wanted to focus specifically on a collection of three mug shots, using the lower half of the face of one of the women (below, left) to fuse with the two others for the paintings. The jaw is flipped horizontally for the second painting.



All three mugshot source photos were taken within a short time period (1955, 1962, 1964) in US penitentiaries. In the paintings, the prison tags are left empty, as I am more interested in the moment of the mugshot, rather than the acts that led to incarceration. Instead of trying to blend the two faces together to make them seem like one person, I exaggerated the differences in skin tone, almost in the same position a face mask would cover everything below the eyes.

The paintings are painted with Titanium white and Carbon black acrylics, with a hint of transparent yellow Iron Oxide, Phthalo blue and Sap green, on poplar wood with brushed aluminium sides.





Inception II Inception III

2020 15 x 20 cm Pencil on paper on reclaimed wood





Interventions Interventions II

2019 60 x 100 cm Acrylic on wood/ aluminium with perspex





Interventions III Interventions IV

2019 60 x 100 cm Acrylic on wood/ aluminium with perspex





Interventions V Interventions VI

2019 60 x 100 cm Acrylic on wood/ aluminium with perspex





Interventions VIII Interventions VIII

2019 40 x 30 cm Acrylic on wood

2019 20 x 15 cm Mezzotint (25 ed.)

INTERVENTIONS | AWARDS, EXHIBITIONS AND AQUISITIONS

FIGURATIVE ART PRIZE

Federation of British Artists, 2021

Selected by:

Jo Baring, Director of the Ingram Collection Andrew Gifford, Artist Clare O'Brien, CEO Federation of British Artists Barbara Walker, Artist Jonathan Watkins, Director of the Ikon Gallery

SHORTLISTED

2022 Derwent Drawing Prize, London/Paris2019 ING Discerning Eye (Tim Rice), London

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022	Galerie Hegemann, Munich
2022	Derwent Drawing Prize, London/Paris
2021	Flowers Gallery, London
2021	Figurative Art Now, London

2020	Flowers Gallery, London
2020	C24 Gallery, New York
2020	Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London
2020	London Art Fair, Venet-Haus Galerie, London
2020	ING Discerning Eye, London

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020 Hamar Kunstforening, Hamar2019 Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh

AQUISTITIONS

Private Collection, Vienna
Private Collection, London
Private Collection, Zürich
Private Collection, Austin Texas
Private Collection, Oslo

RESEARCH GRANT

Norwegian Art Council I year research stipend