

ALEXIS MARGUERITE TEPLIN

“Viaggio in Italia”

Opening: Saturday March 4th, 2008

Until November 22nd, 2008

Car Projects is pleased to present the first exhibition in Italy of works by the American artist Alexis Marguerite Teplin. “Viaggio in Italia”, which shares its title with a famous Rossellini film, is intended by the artist to be a meeting of emotions, discoveries and cross-pollinations that a hypothetical traveller breathes in the first time he arrives in our country.

During the centuries the great artists and historical personages, fascinated by the different facets of this place, have made Italy their source of inspiration, absorbing what they saw and experienced. Alexis M. Teplin enriches her artistic journey with moments and sensations that have affected her during her stay in Italy, including in particular the poetic cinema of the 1950s and 60s.

Using different languages - abstract paintings so intense as to paradoxically take on form, sculptures communicating with the space in such a way as to recreate compelling environments, and drawings of early twentieth-century photographs consisting of layers of lived and pictorial matter - Alexis M. Teplin gives femininity a main role that is supported by an unostentatious elegance which belongs innately to woman, that same woman who was depicted by directors such as Fellini in the film “Giulietta degli spiriti” and Antonioni in the film “Le amiche”.

The paints, the primary element in the artist’s expression, burst onto the canvas surface full of movement, thanks to the choice of formats. The brush strokes move quickly, the colours alternating between bright and dark are vivid and shiny and soon become like landscapes that disappear from one’s vision during a train journey, the exaltation of the escaping moment that captures the feeling of being alive in a given time and place.

The sculptures, composed of 50s vintage accessories found whilst travelling, are covered with paint and decorations so as to merge the objects’ history with the artist’s choice. Alexis M. Teplin engages in research that goes deep into the past, approaching eighteenth-century French painting with its artificial use of colours during the Rococò period and that veiled eroticism typical of Fragonard paintings in order to achieve the Impressionists’ objectivity in which vibrant colour replaces representation in favour of sensation.

Alexis M. Teplin was born in California in 1976, lives and works in London. She has had important exhibitions at the Hotel Gallery in London and at the Gavlak Gallery in the United States.