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b o o k l e t

L'HOSPITALET — BARCELONA

14.01.-07.04.2023



#6

**L21 BOOKLET #6**  
14.01. – 07.04.2023

## CONTRIBUTORS

Royal Jarmon

Geran Knol

Florence Rodenstein

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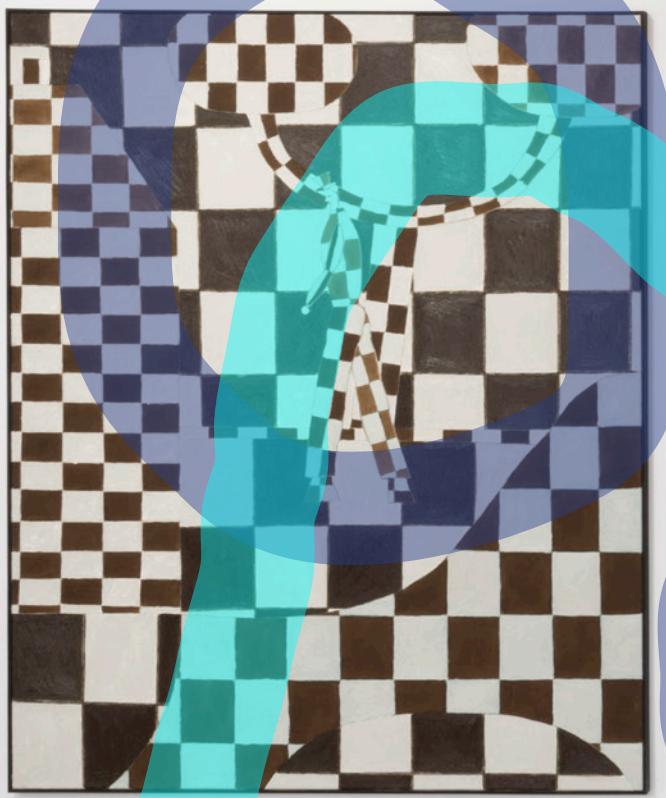
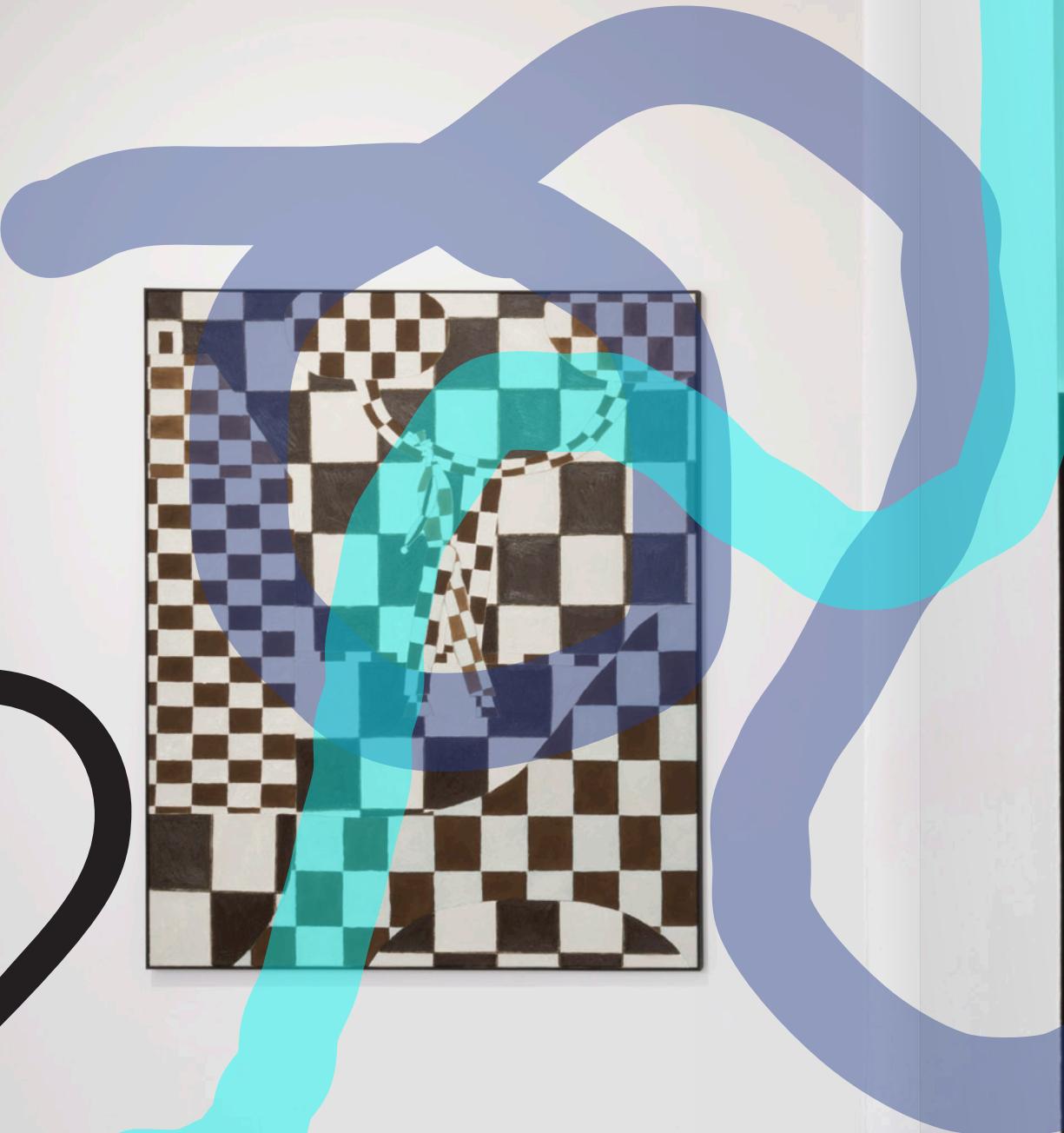
COVER IMAGE: Geran Knol



**L'HOSPITALET — BARCELONA**

Room  
1

Room  
2



# WALK IN PROGRESS

by Geran Knol

# SECRET GARDENS

by Royal Jarmon

ROOM 1

ROYAL



JARMON

# SECRET de ES

## Royal

Por Florence Rodenstein

"your life is your life.  
don't let it be clubbed into dank submission."  
(tu vida es tu vida.  
no dejes que sea golpeada contra la  
húmeda sumisión.)

- Charles Bukowski<sup>1</sup>

Royal Jarmon pudo escapar de la sumisión en gran parte gracias al arte y a su constante impulso por dibujar. De niño, siempre estaba coloreando, dibujando o pintando, y esta era una forma natural de lidiar con todo lo que le rodeaba. Creció en un lugar particularmente duro, así que tener una pasión que lo mantuvo a salvo y anclado tuvo una fuerte repercusión. Aunque en ese momento no sabía que pudiera dedicar su vida al arte, o lo que significaba ser artista, lo descubrió por suerte de joven, gracias a los elogios que recibió de personas cercanas y la influencia de otros artistas.

El imaginario de Jarmon surge de diferentes lugares, desde objetos cotidianos como latas, encendedores, deportistas o automóviles, hasta influencias de su infancia o sus viajes. Le gusta concentrarse durante un período de tiempo en cada tema que pinta, centrándose en el color, la perspectiva o la distorsión. También le interesa crear cosas que nadie ha

**"Secret Gardens"  
explora el tema  
de las flores,  
que de hecho  
está inspirado  
en un dibujo  
que Jarmon hizo  
cuando tenía  
seis años**

visto jamás y el desafío de nuevos hallazgos. William S. Burroughs lo expresó así: "Haces que algo exista al verlo. Nada existe hasta que o a menos que sea observado. Un artista hace que algo exista observándolo. Y su esperanza para otras personas es que también lo hagan existir observándolo. Yo lo llamo 'observación creativa'".

Como autodidacta, Jarmon desarrolló un lenguaje artístico muy reconocible, con pinceladas gruesas y una perspectiva principalmente plana. También conecta con la idea que defendía

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<sup>1</sup>Bukowski, Charles. "The laughing heart" (1991). <https://www.pbagalleries.com/view-auctions/catalog/id/424/lot/134683/the-laughing-heart-manuscript-poem-signed-by-Bukowski>

<sup>2</sup> Burroughs, William S. "Painting and Guns" (1992). P.39. Hanuman Books.

# GARDENS Jarmon



# SECRET GARDENS

## by Royal Jarmon

EN By Florence Rodenstein

"your life is your life.  
don't let it be clubbed into dank submission."

- Charles Bukowski<sup>1</sup>

Royal Jarmon's escape from submission is probably related to art and his constant drive to draw. As a kid, he was always coloring, drawing, or painting, and this was just a natural way to deal with everything that surrounded him. Growing up in a particularly harsh place, having a passion to keep him safe and anchored made a real difference. Although he didn't even know he could dedicate his life to art, or what being an artist meant, he hopefully found out as a young adult, thanks to the praise he received from close people and the influence of other artists.

Jarmon's imagery springs from different places, from normal everyday objects like cans, lighters, sportsmen or cars, to influences from his childhood or travels. He likes to concentrate for a specific period of time on each theme he paints, focusing on color, perspective, or distortion. He also enjoys creating things no one has ever seen and the challenge of new findings. William S. Burroughs put it like this: "You make something exist by seeing it. Nothing exists until or unless it is observed. An artist is making some-

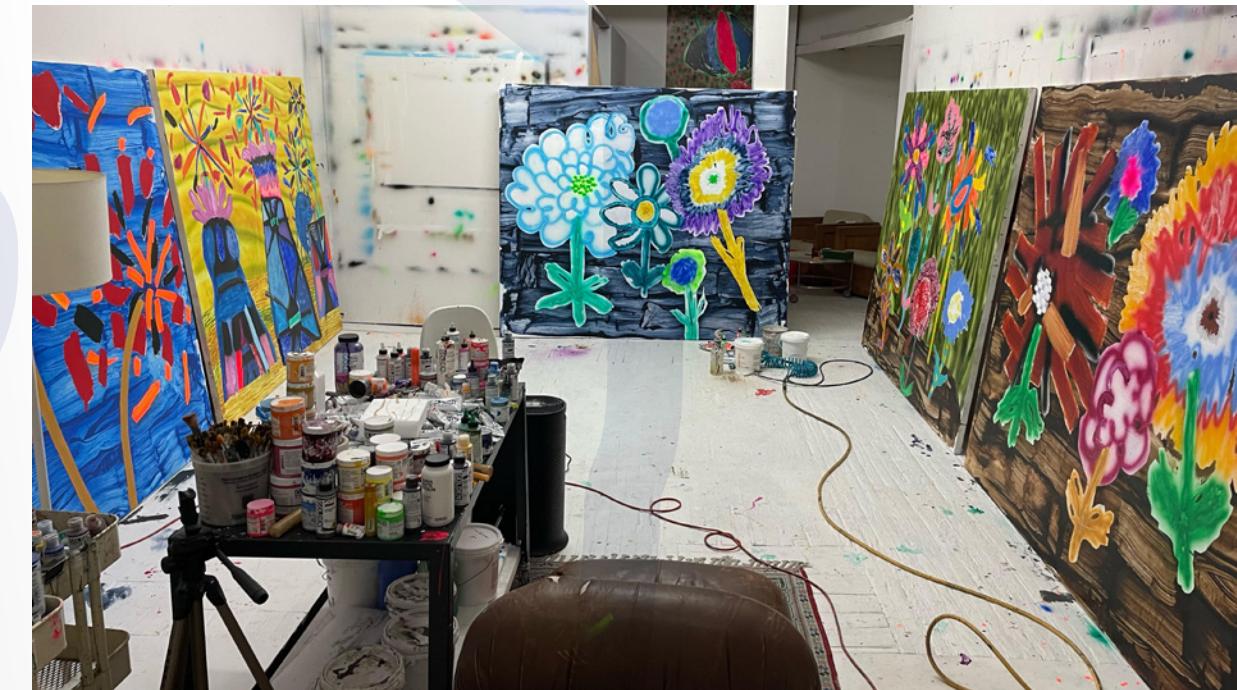
**"Secret Gardens"**  
**explores the**  
**subject of flowers,**  
**which is in fact**  
**inspired on a**  
**drawing Jarmon**  
**made when he**  
**was six years old**

thing exist by observing it. And his hope for other people is that they will also make it exist by observing it. I call it 'creative observation'".

Being self-taught, Jarmon developed an artistic language that is highly recognizable, with thick brush strokes and a mostly flat perspective. He also connects with the notion that Picasso defended of painting like children do. "Secret Gardens" explores the subject of flowers, which is in fact inspired on a drawing Jarmon made when he was six years old. Although the essence is very similar, he rediscovered and explored this pattern with his current background.

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The texture of the paintings is the same as that of his sportsmen series, but one of the main challenges he faced was to add some movement and action to the static nature of flowers. "Flowers in Vases on Table" perfectly solves this dilemma with flowers that look like fireworks exploding.

Ultimately, Jarmon is interested in highlighting beauty in a sometimes (often?) hostile world and infusing some flamboyance to everyday objects. Come to think of it, that's where art also plays a crucial role. Looking at these expanded and at times psychedelic flowers, we can contemplate the repetitive figures searching for the details that resonate with us, be it colors, strokes, or shapes, to find the raw beauty that hides in our daily lives.

<sup>1</sup>Bukowski, Charles. "The laughing heart" (1991). <https://www.pbagalleries.com/view-auctions/catalog/id/424/lot/134683/the-laughing-heart-manuscript-poem-signed-by-Bukowski>

<sup>2</sup> Burroughs, William S. "Painting and Guns". (1992) P.39. Hanuman Books.



WC





# ROYAL JARMON

ES

Royal Jarmon nació en California, creció en el Medio Oeste y ahora vive y trabaja en Brooklyn, Nueva York, Estados Unidos.

Las pinturas y esculturas de Royal Jarmon son vibrantes expresiones de la realidad que exploran la estética visual, la imaginación espacial y la percepción de nuestro entorno. Su obra crea una visión alternativa de la realidad, exagerando perspectivas y formas, saturando los colores y distorsionando objetos, imágenes y elementos reconocibles.

Las obras de Jarmon se interesan por la cultura social y las experiencias humanas populares al navegar por la vida y el mundo que nos rodea, y sus piezas juegan con nuestras expectativas sobre cómo se ven y entienden los paisajes, los objetos y las escenas. Las escaleras de incendios sembradas de botellas, restos de comida y latas de refresco y cerveza se convierten en paisajes lúdicos y bodegones. La perspectiva espacial se aplana y los objetos inanimados se convierten en personajes vivos que reflejan los temas del consumo, el ocio y lo cotidiano, al tiempo que transforman este espacio con hipercolores, fondos aerografiados y escalas exageradas en un mundo ilusionista. Las obras de Jarmon se relacionan con la cultura contemporánea digital y de Internet, y su creación de imágenes dialoga directamente con nuestra realidad actual.

Su obra ha sido expuesta en The Hole (Nueva York, NY, EE.UU.); L21 (Barcelona, España); Over the Influence (Hong Kong/Los Ángeles); Plus-one Gallery (Amberes, Bélgica); Eric Firestone Gallery (Hamptons, NY, EE.UU.); así como en un lanzamiento de escultura con Case Studyo (Bélgica). Entre las publicaciones seleccionadas figuran: Cool Hunting, New American Paintings, Artmaze Magazine. Así como residencias con Silver Arts en NYC y L21 en Mallorca, España.

EN

Royal Jarmon was born in California, raised in the Midwest and now lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, USA.

Royal Jarmon's paintings and sculptures are vibrant expressions of reality that explore visual aesthetics, spatial imaginings, and perceptions of our surroundings. His work creates an alternate view of reality, exaggerating perspectives and forms, saturating colors, and distorting recognizable objects, images, and items.

Jarmon's works are concerned with social culture and popular human experiences navigating life and the world around us, and his pieces play with our expectations for how landscapes, objects, and scenes are viewed and understood. Fire escapes strewn with bottles, food detritus, and cans of soda and beer become playful landscapes and still lives. The spatial perspective is flattened and the inanimate objects become living characters reflecting themes of consumption, leisure, and the everyday, while also transforming this space with hyper colors, airbrushed backgrounds, and exaggerated scales into an illusionistic world. Jarmon's works engage with contemporary digital and Internet culture, and his image making is in direct dialogue to our current, present-day reality.

His work has been exhibited at The Hole (New York, NY, USA); L21 Gallery (Barcelona, Spain); Over the Influence (Hong Kong/Los Angeles); Plus-one gallery (Antwerp, Belgium); Eric Firestone Gallery (Hamptons, NY, USA), as well a sculpture release with Case Studyo (Belgium). Select Publication features include: Cool Hunting, New American Paintings, Artmaze Magazine. As well as residencies with Silver Arts in NYC and L21 in Mallorca, Spain.



ROYAL JARMON  
Blueberry, 2022

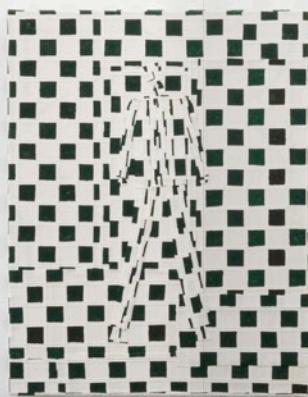
Óleo y acrílico sobre lienzo  
Oil and acrylic on canvas

182.88 x 213.36 cm

# ROOM 2

GERAN

KNOL



# WALK IN PROGRESS

## de Geran Knol

ES

Por Florence Rodenstein

La variación sobre un mismo tema es particularmente conocida en la música clásica, y algunas composiciones que siguen este método tuvieron un éxito inmenso, como las famosas "Variaciones Goldberg" de Bach. Se trata de una técnica formal en la que un mismo material se repite de distintas maneras. Pero esta forma de enfocar el proceso creativo también es habitual en el arte. Por poner algunos ejemplos, a finales del siglo XIX, Monet realizó una serie de pinturas en La Vallée de la Creuse donde exploraba el efecto de la luz natural sobre un mismo paisaje. Fue su primera serie planificada y definida. Y en los años 60, "los artistas desafiaron la reverencia tradicional por la obra maestra única, y exploraron las posibilidades de repetición y cambio. (...) Las obras no presentan soluciones estéticas definitivas, sino que expresan un momento en la infinita multitud de posibilidades".

El artista holandés Geran Knol conecta naturalmente con esta manera de ver el mundo y de crear. Tanto en su faceta de artista como de músico, explora la repetición y la variación de una forma consciente y a la vez intuitiva. Empezó su carrera como ilustrador, pero en el año 2020 comenzó a pintar sobre lienzos y a partir de entonces hubo un cambio de paradigma. Además del dibujo y la pintura, en la actualidad manipula tejidos para coserlos y mezclarlos en patrones distorsionados y collages.

El título de esta exposición individual, "Walk in Progress", remite justamente a la idea de las series y de la búsqueda incansante. Las figuras geométricas y humanas son una constante en su trabajo, pero van evolucionando. Las obras expuestas aquí exploran líneas y cuadrículas sobre las cuales sobresale una figura humana solitaria, que siempre mira de costado. De hecho, desde el punto de vista narrativo o incluso emocional, las figuras aisladas, sin rasgos definidos y con un cierto aire melancólico, parecen explorar un estado de soledad, elegido o impuesto. Pero a Knol también le gusta que en su trabajo resalte su firma naïve, que suaviza lo que vemos. Y, de hecho, hay algo poético en esta mezcla de humor, nostalgia e inocencia.

Además de reproducir numerosas veces las mismas figuras, a Knol le interesa marcar una serie de reglas o limitaciones para luego conectar con la libertad creativa dentro de esa estructura. A veces, el tamaño del tejido funciona como límite, o la regla es seguir un cierto patrón geométrico. Como dijo David Hockney, uno de los pintores que más le han influenciado, "debes planear ser espontáneo". En cierto modo, el trabajo de Knol funciona con dicotomías: variación y repetición, planitud y profundidad, límites y espontaneidad. Mirando "An Outside Scene" y "A Bigger Outside Scene" (cuyos títulos están justamente inspirados en dos obras de Hockney), podemos comprender el sentido de esta búsqueda y experimentar cómo variaciones sutiles pueden transmitir emociones similares y a la vez dispares.

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**Las obras expuestas aquí exploran líneas y cuadrículas sobre las cuales sobresale una figura humana solitaria, que siempre mira de costado**



<sup>1</sup>"Variations on a Theme". The USC Fisher Museum of Art. (2015). <https://fisher.usc.edu/2015/06/09/variations-on-a-theme/>

<sup>2</sup>Wollheim, B. (2009). "David Hockney: A Bigger Picture". Coluga Pictures.



Knol

# WALK IN PROGRESS

## by Geran Knol

By Florence Rodenstein

EN

The "theme and variations" structure is particularly well known in classical music, and some compositions that follow this method have been incredibly successful, such as Bach's famous "Goldberg Variations". It is a formal technique in which the same material is repeated in different ways. But this means of approaching the creative process is also common in art. To put just a few examples, at the end of the 19th century, Monet made a series of paintings in La Vallée de la Creuse where he explored the effect of natural light on the same landscape. This was his first planned and defined series. And during the 60s, "artists challenged the traditional reverence for the unique masterpiece and instead explored the possibilities of repetition and change. (...) The works do not present final aesthetic solutions, but rather they express a moment in the infinite multitude of possibilities".

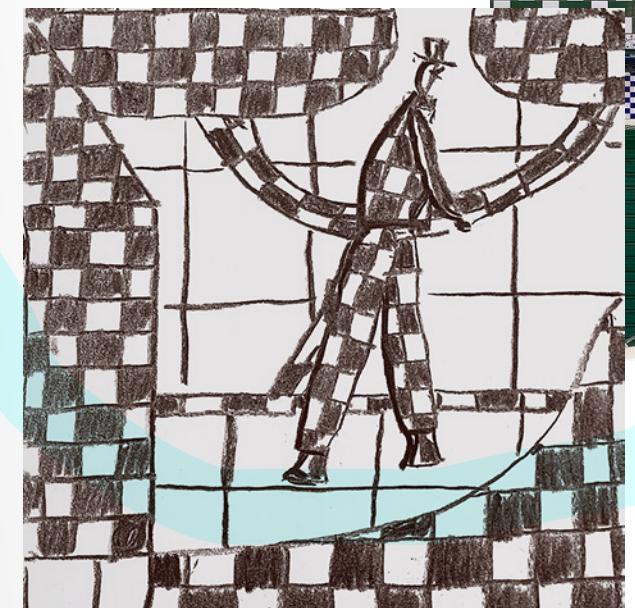
Dutch artist Geran Knol naturally connects with this way of seeing the world and creating. Both as an artist and as a musician, he explores repetition and variation in a conscious and intuitive way. He started his career as an illustrator, but in 2020 he started painting on canvas and from then on there was a paradigm shift. Physical matter gained more and more importance until reaching the present time. In addition to drawing and painting, he now manipulates found fabric to stitch and patchwork it into distorted patterns and collage.

The title of this solo exhibition, "Walk in Progress", refers precisely to the idea of series and constant search. Geometric and human figures are recurrent in his work, but they are evolving. The artworks exhibited here explore lines and grids on which a human figure stands out, always looking sideways and alone. In fact, from the narrative or even emotional point of view, the isolated figures, with no defined features and a certain melancholic air, seem to explore a chosen or imposed state of solitude. But Knol also likes his work to highlight his naïve signature, which softens what we see. And indeed, there is something poetic about this mix of humor, nostalgia, and innocence.

In addition to reproducing the same figures numerous times, Knol is interested in establishing a set of rules or limitations to later connect with the creative freedom within that structure. Sometimes the size of the fabric works as a limit, or the rule is to follow a certain geometric pattern. As David Hockney, one of the painters who has influenced him the most, said: "You've got to plan to be spontaneous". In a way, Knol's work functions with dichotomies: variation and repetition, flatness and depth, limits and spontaneity. Looking at "An Outside Scene" and "A Bigger Outside Scene" (whose titles are actually inspired by two works by Hockney) one can truly understand the meaning of this search and experience how subtle variations can convey similar yet distinct emotions.

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**The artworks exhibited here explore lines and grids on which a human figure stands out, always looking sideways and alone**

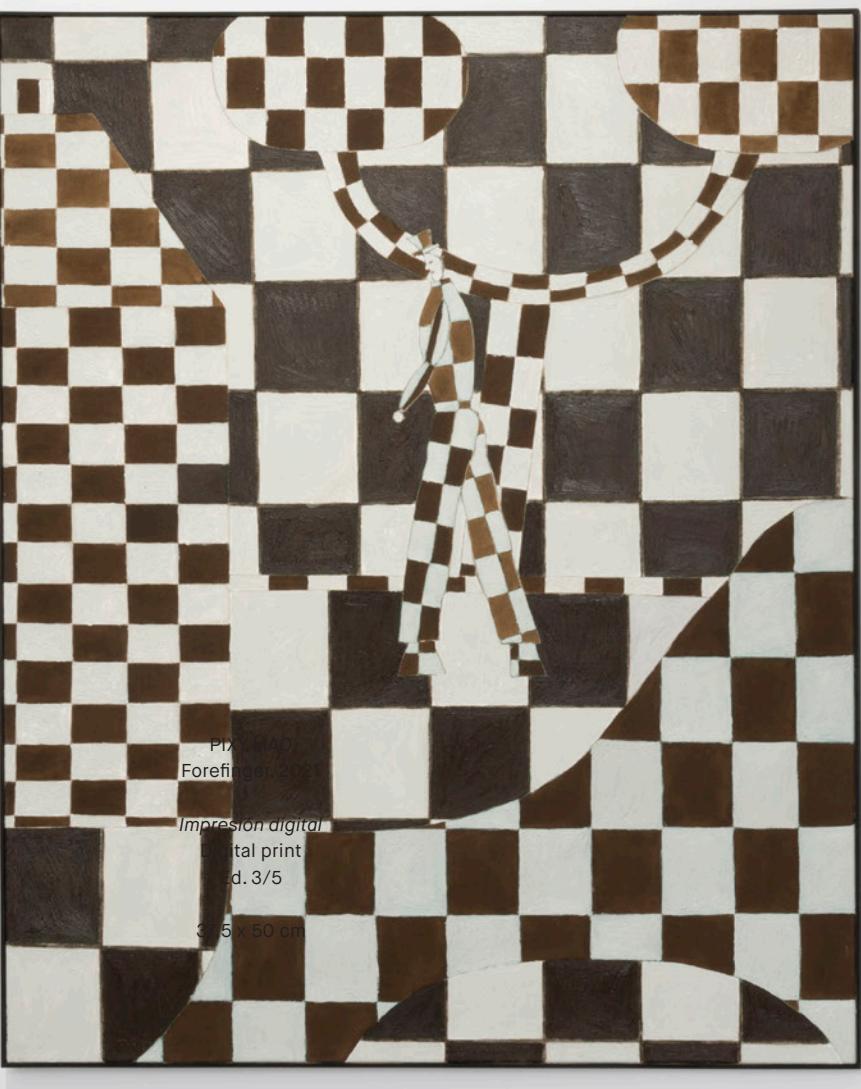


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# GERAN KNOL

## ES

Geran Knol es un artista multidisciplinar de los Países Bajos que actualmente vive y trabaja en Amberes (Bélgica).

Su obra consiste en dibujos, pinturas, sonido y esculturas. También participa en Park Pardon, una colaboración con Bloeme van Bon. Se licenció en Ilustración en la ArtEZ Hogeschool voor de Kunsten de Zwolle (Países Bajos) en 2012 y obtuvo un máster en Artes Visuales en Sint Lucas de Amberes (Bélgica) en 2015.

Su obra es una investigación en constante evolución sobre la forma y el fondo. En las imágenes de Knol, una figura recurrente se convierte en parte de su entorno y no adquiere una personificación concreta. A menudo trabaja en series en las que se limita a ciertas reglas de juego. Con esas limitaciones, investiga posibles variaciones que luego dan lugar a nuevas ideas. Para Knol, un dibujo tiene una importancia similar a la de un cuadro, y a menudo se remite a trabajos anteriores cuando trabaja con un nuevo medio. Aunque su práctica adopta generalmente un formato bidimensional, las cualidades hapticas de los materiales son muy relevantes en la elaboración de la imagen final.

Su trabajo ha sido expuesto en diversas exposiciones individuales y colectivas como "Lucky Charms", Ballroom Gallery (Bruselas, 2022); "With A Silent Drum", L21 (Palma de Mallorca, 2021); "Plaatjes & Praatjes", Willem II Fabriek (Den Bosch, 2019); "AppointMENT", MENT (Liublana, 2019); "Unclear Clarity", ABC Klubhuis (Amberes, 2017); "Double Bubble", Inuit (Bologna, 2015); "Illustrative", Direktorenhaus (Berlin, 2015); and "The Considered Cabinet of Deliberate Thoughts", with Park Pardon (Amberes, 2015). Ha participado en las ferias de arte Art Antwerp (2022) y ARCOMadrid (2021).

## EN

Geran Knol is a multidisciplinary artist from the Netherlands, currently living and working in Antwerp, Belgium.

His work consists of drawings, paintings, sound and sculptural work. He is also involved in Park Pardon, a collaboration with Bloeme van Bon. He received a BA in Illustration at ArtEZ Hogeschool voor de Kunsten in Zwolle (the Netherlands) in 2012 and a Master in Visual Arts at Sint Lucas in Antwerp (Belgium) in 2015.

His work is an ever evolving research on shape and form. In Knol's image a recurrent figure becomes part of its surroundings and doesn't take on a personification. He often works in series where he limits himself to certain rules of play. With those limitations he researches possible variations which then lead to new ideas. For Knol a drawing carries a similar importance to a painting, and he often refers to previous work when working with a new medium. Even though his practice generally takes a two-dimensional format, the haptic qualities of the materials are very relevant in the making of a final image.

His work has been exhibited in several solo and group exhibitions such as "Lucky Charms", Ballroom Gallery (Brussels, 2022); "With A Silent Drum", L21 (Palma de Mallorca, 2021); "Plaatjes & Praatjes", Willem II Fabriek (Den Bosch, 2019); "AppointMENT", MENT (Ljubljana, 2019); "Unclear Clarity", ABC Klubhuis (Antwerp, 2017); "Double Bubble", Inuit (Bologna, 2015); "Illustrative", Direktorenhaus (Berlin, 2015); and "The Considered Cabinet of Deliberate Thoughts", with Park Pardon (Antwerp, 2015). He has participated in the art fairs Art Antwerp (2022) and ARCOMadrid (2021).



GERAN KNOL

Situated Figure VI, 2022

Tela de patchwork  
montada sobre lienzo  
Patchworked fabric mounted to canvas

80 x 60 cm

# L'HOSPITALET - BARCELONA



**L21 BARCELONA**

C. de Salvador 24, 2º  
08902 L'Hospitalet  
Barcelona  
Spain

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Monday – Friday  
11h – 15h and by appointment

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Néstor Llorens

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Matthew Feyld

Fátima De Juan

Alejandro Leonhardt

Jordi Ribes

Mira Makai

Hunter Potter

Daisy Dodd-Noble

Richard Woods

Gao Hang

Nat Meade

Théo Viardin

Ben Edmunds

Dasha Shishkin

Joe Cheetham

Mona Broschár

Simon Demeuter

Edu Carrillo

Ian Waelder

Erika Hock

Fabio Viscogliosi

Valerie Krause

Stevie Dix

Geran Knol

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