



ana júlia vilela all tomorrow's parties

Within her artistic creation, Ana Júlia Vilela keeps an active involvement to sketch books. Operating as a journal, this intimate space created by the artist holds not only strokes, sketches and intentions that precede her paintings, but also her wishes and worldviews. And it's in this link between public and private that *All Tomorrow's Parties* is laid out.

From the beginning, the exhibition places the viewer in front of a kind of open notebook, triggering an intimate dive into the artist's poetics. Shifting between figure and abstraction, Ana Júlia presents a type of painting which, beyond her pictorial research, reveals a textual content that at times can resemble tweets, or at other times it can be more elaborate: a WhatsApp chat simulation, her fixation on ghosts, a research on ancestral dental arches, her cats, are among other curious cases witnessed by the artist. In spite of Ana Julia's choice for painting as a support for her practice, it's interesting to note that in our meetings we talk about everything but actual painting.

This is how *All Tomorrow's Parties* gains momentum as artistic discourse and representation. By using painting as a platform for facing us with issues that may be considered frivolous, Ana Júlia suggests a look towards our humanness. As if the artist made us look to the other side of the coin, and for a moment we could appreciate the ordinary within ourselves and notice the beauty in not taking ourselves too seriously all the time.

As it triggers insights on the fact that there's no extraordinary without ordinary, trivial and routine – from which we seem to get increasingly distant – it's almost imperative to put oneself in a state of melancholy towards our existence. And that's where the beauty and the generosity of the artist's work lies: their paintings activate layers that allow us to get in touch with our feelings, existentialisms and contradictions. The great magic of this phenomenon is to allow ourselves to feel more alive than ever. Diving deep is what makes us want to rise to the surface. All tomorrow's parties can turn out to be the best ones; and weren't all of those we've already been through also the best? It's about being able to understand our perspective. When on the edge of a cliff, do you jump, retreat or stop for a moment to enjoy the view?

As she magnifies her personal journal, it's like Ana Júlia tells us there's no need to hide anything, that it's possible to navigate a world where we can just be ourselves and where our (greatest or not so great) concerns must be embraced. If once you left here you decided to start your own journal, how would you see yourself when faced with these questions? Who are you when no one is watching? Would you dare to put yourself out there like that? Thereby, *All Tomorrow's Parties* devises a debate on aspects common to everybody's lives, but which are important for making us unique.

// Carollina Lauriano

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