

Jeanine Hofland  
Contemporary Art

De Clercqstraat 62  
NL-1052 NJ Amsterdam

+31(0)6 24343290

www.jeaninehofland.nl  
mail@jeaninehofland.nl

JASPER HAGENAAR  
*HAVEN*

15 DECEMBER 2012 - 02 FEBRUARY 2013

WEST WEDNESDAYS: 9 JANUARY 2013,  
17.00H - 21.00H

SCREENING OF *GOOD TASTE MADE BAD TASTE*  
&  
NEW YEARS DRINKS

*Nathan: The inner refuge, Harry. The place a man goes to when life in the real world is no longer possible.*

.....

*Tom: I still don't follow. You invent a place called the Hotel Existence, but where is it? What was it for?*

*Harry: For? Nothing really. It was a retreat, a world I could visit in my mind. That's what we're talking about, no? Escape.\**

Jeanine Hofland Contemporary Art is proud to present the exhibition *Haven* by Dutch artist Jasper Hagenaar (1977, NL).

On page 102 and 103 in the novel *The Brooklyn Follies*, American author Paul Auster takes us to the concept of the childhood fantasy via a dialogue between two protagonists about the "Hotel Existence". A mental self-designed reality constructed and assembled from fragments from daily life; the perfect and safe haven for the child's mind. The paintings of Jasper Hagenaar derive from a similar journey through a boy's mental adventures, although the given mis-en-scenes are often less ideal than they might appear after a first glance.

Rather than expressing an ideal world in itself within the picture plane, the works express a longing for the "Hotel Existence", wherein hope is often captured within a symbol of despair. As for example the vitrines in which lively elements like garlands and a hare (*Remnant* and *Lepus timidus*) have dwelled. Or the often recurring vases within his paintings, which contain the motion in their reflection.

Within the exhibition Hagenaar takes us through a labyrinth of the longing mind, the cabinet of curiosities of escapism, wherein he literary zooms in and out and alternates historical and contemporary adventures within the framework of the art historical portrait, the landscape and the still life.

Just around the corner of the last part of Hagenaar's journey within the gallery space we encounter a cheerful and colourful portrait of a bunch of flowers in the work entitled *Haven*. Festive at first, two flowers already ceased blossoming, enfolding a narrative that slowly floats away from the suggested safe haven.

It's the story of a conditioned mind, the adult who once was a child, who can travel back to mental constructs of youth adventures, but cannot ignore the sharp-edged reality of daily life.

Last autumn Jasper Hagenaar received both the jury and audience Royal Award for Modern Painting 2012. He has been a resident at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten between 2004 and 2006 and his work has been included in several group and solo exhibitions within The Netherlands and abroad.

\*(*The Brooklyn Follies*, Paul Auster, p. 102/103)