



ONE ON ONE/ ALICE CASE & KUI SOON PARK / 2018 02 16, 7:00 P.M./ UMBAU, ACKERSTRASSE 18, BERLIN



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I TALK ABOUT THAT WORLD BETWEEN CELLS AND ATOMS

by Institut für Alles Mögliche

Alice Case from Los Angeles is currently staying at Niederlassung studio in Berlin. Her paintings suggest alternate reality presented in geometric shapes and chaotic constructions. Just before "ONE ON ONE" art show we met Alice to talk about her inspirations, interest in sculpture, abstractionism and... the universe.

It's interesting that you have not only studied painting, but sculpture too. How does it affect your paintings? I think that's why I'm interested in 3D. I have done lots of metal work and casting and having and experience in this practice helps me see things differently. My paintings are about alternative reality and different dimensions – I'm asking myself what is reality. We are humans with limited senses. The knowledge of sculpture art helps me in thinking about surfaces, dimensions and working with various materials.

Your paintings include both abstractionism and realism. How did you find your way of painting? In order to be an abstract painter, you have to have skills in painting realistically, so that's what you're learning in schools. After graduating, I was painting an abstract and only recently I started to bring in some realism. If I'm trying to shift reality in my paintings, there needs to be something real in it as a starting point that you can shift away from.

Because of this interesting line between abstract and realism you create a very surrealistic world... After graduating, I got interested in physics and I realized that we can prove so many things with in a scientific way, although we can't actually see it. But just because we can't see, it doesn't mean it doesn't exist. We create different names for objects around us, but if you break them down to elements and atoms, these names we give don't make much sense anymore. I wanted to paint the world between atoms and cells. I must admit, it's more a practice of thinking than a realistic

approach - it helped me to figure out what do I care about, and it is potential realities that we can't imagine.

I admire your need to question things: many painters, writers or filmmakers want to talk about things they know about. Meanwhile your paintings are about things you don't know and can't understand at all. Yes, I think it's totally truth! I want to understand the world around me with a help of art. It's one of my main statements as an artist. But my last works are more related to current events in US: it's a collective reality that a lot of people are feeling there, a genuine sadness and fear. I'm trying to articulate that feeling but also I wish to remind others there are so much more going on in the universe...

Alice, how important is politics for you as an artist? We have that shallow stereotype about an artist living in his studio and not caring about economic, political problems, living in some kind of isolation bubble... I don't create political art, I don't have a goal to make a political statement. But there's no escaping from a negative information that is presented on news, no matter you care about politics or not. I hate our current situation in US, but spreading that hate doesn't help for anyone. I wish media would present facts more often, not an opinion, although I know that journalists are angry on Trump. In my paintings, I'm trying to create a world where you can see a dark side and a bright side, transmission and escaping, looking for a better reality. I feel there's an opportunity as an artist to not only create something that's visually enjoyable.

Ok let's finish our talk on this positive note then. The last question – can you recommend us some artists to check? David Schnell, Corinne Wasmuht, Julie Mehretu, Njideka Crosby, Mark Radford.

Thanks Alice! I hope you will never stop questioning the Universe ●

