

NICOLAS KULIGOWSKI POWER OF IMAGES

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Curated and Organised by Karine Giannamore
Lennox Gallery – London

Nicolas Kuligowski's work has a double edge.

At first acquaintance, one notices the vibrancy of the paintings, the colourful and attractive patchworks, the efficient brushstrokes. His paintings immediately seduce by their flamboyant aspect.

But as we study the work more carefully, it is striking; the paintings are solely about objects - not a still life but one object solely taking over the whole space of the canvas.

There is nothing else. No human presence. The object takes centre stage.

It is very unnerving to be faced with an object which has been taken out of its social context. The object itself has no life when being deprived of its social or practical function.

The diving board seems silently still with no diver or water, the cargo appears like a ghost with no apparent sea, the helmet seems defenceless without its owner and the chair appears to be useless on its own.

Yet, despite being deprived of its practical function, Nicolas Kuligowski turns the object into a powerful image.

Half figurative, half abstract with intentional lack of perspective and intriguing reflections, the object becomes the subject and takes on a new significance. Its powerful presence connects to one's own interpretation and values.

His depiction of a saddle for instance may imply different messages; does it represent a leisurely sport or could it be the symbol of a privileged upper class environment? Could it even represent a symbol of sexual dominance? Or simply a sense of freedom?

The notion of desire is present: his pair of women's boots will have us wondering whose feet they belong to. It's mysterious - it's sexy. A helmet explores the idea of uniform – protection or menace? A military ship: impression of power, or lost power, past wars or even current political threat?

One can be seduced by the true aesthetic effect and colourful impact of Kuligowski's paintings. However, they are not innocent. Beneath its vivid aspect, Nicolas Kuligowski's work interrogates the power of representation and the impact of an image.

Nicolas Kuligowski is a Graduate from Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

He was nominated for the First Prize Painting at the prestigious SALON DE MAI (Paris) in 2006

He lives and works in Paris

It is his first solo exhibition in London.

10% of the profits will be go to: epilepsy *action*