

The Where, What, Who I Live

I struggled to write an introduction to this show. Not because there wasn't anything to say, but because in this case, words don't seem to add much. Etsuko Kobayashi, Japanese-born and Paris citizen and artist, paints her home, her love life, her city -- basically she paints her life. Many artists paint their life, so where does Etsuko's richness and freshness come from? By showing things as things are. Not to express angst; not as visual "adjectives", just "nouns", simply, directly, and honestly. This is why her staring girls are so sexy. Because their gaze are direct and honest. This is why her basic home is so engaging. Because it offers neither excuses nor reasons to hold it in awe. But Etsuko is an artist, not an illustrator. See how she plays with perspectives and spaces, the rhythm of the lines, and the way the colours bounce off of each other and the background. It this caring rendering of ordinary things that give the subjects, and thus the paintings, their richness. A London collector said that above all else, she collects works to make her discover. And here, in Etsuko's work, we discover the wonderful and simple "beingness" of our lives. So really, all I need to say is, as the title, "the where, what, who I live", and leave Etsuko's work to speak to you directly.



"The Where, What, Who I Live"

paintings by Etsuko Kobayashi

Invitation Private View: Tuesday 19 October, 6pm - 8pm

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(020) 7608 1252
info@augustart.co.uk
www.augustart.co.uk



#311 Royle Building
31 Wenlock Road
(Islington) N1
nearest tube: Old St



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this page, "2004", 45.5 X 55 cm
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