

## **Milk and Cookies: A Journey Through Nostalgia and Intimacy**

Tube Culture Hall is pleased to presents Milk & Cookies a group exhibition of Amit Berman, Charles Laib Bitton, Louise Janet, Deb Koo and Ollie White curated by Jemma Elliot-Israelson that will be open on February 12<sup>th</sup> from 6pm.

The exhibition *Milk and Cookies* brings together a poignant collection of figurative works, weaving themes of memory, nostalgia, and interiority. Across 17 pieces, the featured international artists delve into the intimate aspects of human experience through depictions of interior spaces, still moments, memory, and inner reflection. The decision to focus on figurative work in *Milk and Cookies* stems from its ability to anchor themes of nostalgia and intimacy within the human experience. By depicting private, interior moments often lost in the curated realities of technology, social media, and photography, the exhibition reveals the loneliness and disconnection of modern life while reminding us of the profound beauty in everyday connections and memories.

The paintings also highlight the tension between human connection and contemporary disconnection. Most of our personal interactions are now often mediated through screens, leaving behind a sense of loneliness despite hyper-connectivity. These works counteract this digital detachment by immortalizing fleeting, mundane moments and elevating them into spaces of deep reflection and meaning through the medium of painting. Drawing on the tradition of still life, several artists emphasize close looking, rejecting the fast-paced, throwaway culture of consumerism in favor of deeper observation and interpretation of objects, feelings, and moments. In doing so, *Milk and Cookies* serves as a meditation on presence, memory, and the quiet significance of everyday life.

Works like Deb Koo's *Cake For The Holidays* and *Afternoon Festivities* draw from personal memories, transforming still-life settings into timeless reflections of joy and heritage. Similarly, Amit Berman's *A Storm in My Grandmother's Tea Set* and *Sowing* blends familial legacy with themes of renewal and tenderness, underscoring how objects and relationships can hold emotional histories.

The theme of intimacy permeates throughout, from Louise Janet's sensitive portrayal of friendship in *Sleepover* to her exploration of familial bonds in *My mother and me*. Ollie White's minimalist works, such as *Green Shoes in Box* and *Twins*, evoke both solitude and connection through anthropomorphic objects, while Charles Laib Bitton's *Resting from painting* and *Claire Resting* emphasize the unremarkable yet profound moments of daily life juxtaposing the large scale of the canvas with the immediacy of a private moment.

Together, these works invite viewers to reflect on their own experiences of nostalgia and closeness. In doing so, *Milk and Cookies* reminds us of the power of art to slow us down, encouraging us to find meaning in stillness, observation, and the unnoticed moments that shape our lives.

**Amit Berman Born:** 1994

**Lives and works:** Between Tel Aviv, Israel, and Italy.

Berman's recent achievements include participation in **'I confini dell'alterità / The Contours of Otherness'** at the Jewish Museum Venice during the 2024 Venice Biennale. He has been selected for several residencies including at **The Cabin, Los Angeles** (November 2024) and **Cabane Georgina, Marseille** (July 2024). Berman is exhibiting in an upcoming group show at the **Haifa Museum of Contemporary Art** (April 2025).

**Charles Laib Bitton Born:** 1985, Brussels, Belgium

**Lives and works:** Florence, Italy

Bitton trained at the **Kunstakademie Düsseldorf** (2018–2022) and the **Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Vienna** (2016–2018). Notable residencies include the **Van Gogh Huis Museum** in Zundert (2019) and the **Kala Art Institute** in Berkeley (2017). His solo exhibitions include **"Fringe"** at Basho's Promise, Florence (2024), and **"The Silver Medallion"** at Super Super Markt, Berlin (2023).

**Louise Janet Born:** 1999, Paris, France

**Lives and works:** Montreuil, France

A graduate of the **Beaux-Arts de Paris**, Janet has received critical recognition, including the **Diamond Bourse for Drawing** in 2020. Her recent solo exhibitions include **"Building Stories"** at Galeries Elsa Meunier and Mathilde le Coz (2024) and **"How the Days Turn"** at Scroll Gallery, New York (2024). She has also participated in group shows such as **"La Jeunesse a Toujours Raison"** at Galerie Strouk, Paris (2024) and **"Interior Worlds"** at Taymour Grahne Projects, London (2024).

**Deb Koo Born:** 1990, Seoul, South Korea

**Lives and works:** Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

Koo holds an MFA in Western Painting from **Ewha Womans University, Seoul** (2017) and a BA in Studio Art from **Smith College, Northampton, MA** (2013). She has exhibited internationally, including solo shows such as **"With Sugar on Top"** at Tchotchke Gallery, Brooklyn (2023), and **"Sweet"** at Sozo Gallery, Charlotte (2022).

**Ollie White Born:** 2000, United Kingdom

**Lives and works:** London, UK

White's work often balances observation and imagination, blending real and fictional elements to create contemplative spaces. His pieces provoke questions about meaning and representation, offering viewers a window into the emotional depths of his artistic explorations.

White trained at the **Royal College of Art** in London and exhibited work in the **2024 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition**.

