

JAN TEUNISSEN

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Jan Teunissen assumes the role of an explorer of a world full of textures, of a tactile universe, juxtaposing objects and materials that awaken our senses. The compositions unveil Teunissen's care, who, with the disposition of his motifs, manages to conduct our gaze. This is how we end up going through the whole width of the scene, with just a single and fluid movement. It's not uncommon to see him opting for cyclical compositions or ones that are subdivided into "arabesques".

The wide array of materials that are placed together on a single canvas turns out to be interesting. They're a pure cognitive feast: we have the glass of a lamp, the metal of an ancient jar, a bottle made of clay, Chinese ceramics, the cloth of a towel, a wooden lid placed among flowers, fruits and some other organic elements. I imagine that Teunissen gets as much pleasure in conveying the texture's accuracy as we have when analysing it.

The light's quality is another unique detail: it's not intense nor soft; it's not cold nor hot. Instead, it's a laboured, lowered or even reflected light that gives rise to semi-diffused shadows, which slowly illuminate objects. There is no hurry, only the softness and delicacy of those who leave no trace behind them, nor speculative reflections or deeply dense shadows.

Above all, it's a light that does not want the limelight. It naturally points out to the composition's volume, with a slow and graceful transition, whilst eliciting a calm and quiet atmosphere. In order to increase the overall contrast, the backgrounds are essentially black and dense. This is how Teunissen provides a focusing point to his motifs.

Our attention is not dispersed by details stuck in the background, this has other obvious advantages: light is more effectively portrayed and consequently the volumetry and integrates the values in a uniform manner. Therefore, the composition has in itself the whole purpose of the scene. Our glance falls over it and there it remains.

Left: Detail of Still life with Candle and Dry Roses

Top Right: Still life with Basket and Bread, 2008, oil on board, 45 x 60cm

Bottom Right: Still life with Candle and Dry Roses, 2008, oil on board, 43 x 60cm





Still life with
Bottle and
Lemons
2016
oil on board
40 x 50cm



Chinese Kraak
"hooded"
Kraak Bowl and
Wine Pot and
Bronze Vase
2014
oil on board
30 x 40cm



Still life with
Apples and
White Can
2015
oil on board
50 x 70cm



Still life
with Mortar
and Bottle
2008
oil on board
30 x 40cm