

Group exhibition
Couch/Door Problem
27 April – 5 May 2024

There is a whole genre of videos on YouTube that show people moving sofas; men in three-quarter trousers and trolleys, corporate promo videos, as well as private footage of couples. The camera is perched on a stool or small table as the two of them maneuver a leather sofa through a door. The object on which people sit or lie can only enter or leave the room vertically. An average three-seater sofa measures approximately 225×90×80 cm. Standard doors are available in widths from 630 mm to 930 mm in 50 mm increments and in heights of 2015 mm, 2115 mm and 2315 mm.

Entering a friend's place for the first time, opening the door, stepping inside. A moment of recognition or a complete reassessment of who you thought they were?

When a few months ago Daragh proposed to make an exhibition in the empty apartment on Rue Kindermans before he'd move in, I used the chance to bring together a group of artists whose work I admire. Some of them are peers with whom I shared front doors and kitchen sinks, others came from different generations and places.

Along the way other resonances and connections emerged: the blurred edges of a landscape asking where will I live instead of what do I own? Others taking jabs at the singularity of the portrait, doing painterly justice to the complex nature of being human. A chair showing the instability in our world of objects; unavailable to sit on, ready for a fall. Dust not sucked into the abyss of the vacuum cleaner but compressed into a new object, solidifying place. A needle through a wall; aluminum foil and nail polish folded and pressed into something else with a face; the bed as studio; the curtains as frame. An endless stream of rooms, a bearded dragon in New York, a knight guarding the fridge. A group of abandoned mirrors forcing you to settle for just a part of yourself.

This show addresses the messy process of materializing the self within the home in an ongoing battle between interiority and exteriority fought out behind closed doors. Like any invitation, once accepted, the task of interpreting and responding to its furnished interior falls upon the visitor, a threshold between two minds.