

Remote (catalogue)

Christine Philipp challenges the traditional expectation of representation and perception. She chooses day-to-day subject matters and estranges them from their original context and meaning. Ordinary places as a garage, playground or staircase are turned into distant and quiet environments. Through personal intervention her subjects become distorted and result in images that create an 'unheimlich' atmosphere. Christine has the ability to restrict her images to their barest essentials; she has the gift to show only what is really necessary.

Films inspire Christine to paint. Her work has its roots in particular situations seen in movies, documentaries or photographs. A good documentary can communicate a certain atmosphere; Christine tries to catch such a sensation in her paintings. She is especially interested in far away, remote settings. Intrigued by the dark side, she fancies it when a work is not too clean, stylish. 'I like it when paintings have something awkward, uncomfortable, either aesthetically or in what they are sending out.' Christine does not make pretty pictures. Her remote paintings are a combination of aesthetics and charisma; the exterior and interior are one.

In her Brussels studio she works intensely, every day. When you flip through the pages of this catalogue you will directly encounter her fascination for quiet, desolated places. Walking through the streets at night you will soon see a 'Philipp spot'; a remote corner, street or stairway that reminds you of Christine's work. Her work stays with you, even after a short acquaintance.