

## ‘Closer than ever’

Liat Elbling, fine-art photographer as a witness

From 3 March until 29 April, the Artelli Gallery welcomes the fine-art photo exhibition ‘Closer than ever’ by Liat Elbling. She positions photography as the medium, the technique, the act and the photograph as the product and the object. She puts herself in the witness stand. She creates visual richness by meticulously processing single photos into intensively composed photographs. Architecture and its components have a prominent presence in her art. ‘Closer than ever’ is presented in 5 series that juxtapose reality and perception.

‘Untitled’ comprises photos from private homes and structures that were digitally manipulated so that their doorways or windows were blocked and removed from the context. Windows and doors were sealed or copied to other locations, houses were moved to foreign landscapes or artificial backgrounds. ‘Home’ was transformed into an ‘object’. This series leads the visitor as if he or she was on a main road that diverges into two paths: one heading towards non-materiality and the other towards materiality.

‘Common ground’ reflects conceptual work. Liat Elbling took photos in empty art galleries and manipulated them accurately by taking out different elements of the construction and combining them in a new photo. Each time the viewer is confronted with a strong feeling of *déjà vu*. The place looks familiar however it isn’t. It is a ‘new gallery’... Message to the observer: ‘Respect it but suspect it’!

A bridge between studio work and digital processing is to be discovered in ‘The other way around’. Focus is put on a small image which beforehand has been cut out, printed, framed and re-photographed. It just looks like a 3D art work. In fact, the eye fools you because it is a purely flat print of the photo. Get closer and cross the border between reality and imagination.

The series ‘Proposals of disorder’ in grey and ‘Interactions’ painted in a solid colour are closely linked. The models are built in the studio using different materials such as wood, plaster, cardboard, paper and have only been treated manually. Each set is built in a minimalistic composition and captured with the camera. Liat Elbling returns to the basic characteristics of art: perspective, light and shadow, relationship between 2 and 3 dimensions and encounter between materials, colours and textures.