

Irene Hanenbergh

Alexei Altise Luxor (little leg Leningrad)

2016-17

Oil on canvas

30 x 25 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc

Admittedly I can't help but feel a greater affinity with the imperfect than the perfect. Constructed perfection has its issues and so many fixed arguments.

Most of this painting in fact relates to a search for the perfect 'state' on a small scale, an under-sized utopian presence, an intensified liminal state, a porthole of longing, anticipated perfection or, perish the thought, happiness! The ceremonial search and riddle in the making.

Sadly, this painting didn't retain its core. Keeping that in mind, the objective couldn't ever be anything other than utterly subjective and momentary. Exploring such a sublime, grand aesthetic, is always at risk of becoming, nihilistic, melancholic, nostalgic, or plain wrong; at other times its interior erased en route. That said, I have a fond recollection of this painting and all the stages it went through over the past 2 years. This painting remains in progress and will get there in the end, I have no doubt.

