LARA-SOPHIE BENJAMIN

University Campus Suffolk, UK
Supervisor: Shaun Camp
Lives and works in Nicosia, Cyprus

Lara Sophie Benjamin (b. 1987) studied art at Camberwell College of Arts, the Cyprus College of Art, and at University Campus Suffolk from where she received a Master’s in Arts Practice, in 2015, accredited by the University of East Anglia and University of Essex. During her studies at Cyprus College of Art she worked closely with Stass Paraskos and Andros Efthathiou. Her work has been exhibited in Cyprus, the UK and France, and is part of many private and public collections.

Lara Sophie Benjamin is a painter working primarily with oil paints. She draws subject matter from everyday surroundings and finds a significant resonance in ordinary sights and spaces. She is interested in their experiential nature, subjective and selective readings and their formal qualities. Windows and doorways are of particular interest, having liminal associations, being transitional places where time and action are suspended, where both outside and inside are present.

The outer and inner world come together on the canvas through the activity of painting. Familiar shapes lose their meaning and become part of a modified actuality. Benjamin works intuitively and sees painting as an unending process of exploration and discovery based on formal and aesthetic qualities, and the versatility of paint.

Painting is a constant balancing act; a continual push and pull of opposing forces. Painters construct an image and, at the same time, deconstruct it. Ideally, an image must hold together while simultaneously falling apart. Ambiguity in what one is looking at is engaging, revealing information as well as a lack of it. And, during the process of making, the artist exists somewhere between control and loss of control – the dichotomy between knowing and not knowing.
Anecdoche, Oil on Canvas, 24x18cm, 2016
Hindsight, Oil on Canvas, 80x100cm, 2017