

MARCH

Lina Tharsing

Chez Elle

September 1–October 12, 2021

www.marchgallery.org

Lina Tharsing's home is located in Lexington, Kentucky, tucked away on a side street, a short walk from the city's downtown center. The rooms are padded with woven rugs and wooden shelves, decorated with a variety of books and catalogues, flourishing plants, and innumerable artworks. Paintings—those of Tharsing's parents and others—adorn the walls, reflected in the mirrors hung around the house. The back garden leads to two lofty studios, brimming with a variety of artistic paraphernalia. The effect is a mix of Southern charm, bohemian repose, and gentle nostalgia. Here is Tharsing's world.

In 2016, after her parents' passing, Tharsing moved back into her childhood home, occupying the studio that had once been her father's. This situation produced a sort of creative echo for Tharsing and she began to explore the deep connections toward the home and her parents. *Chez Elle* is born from this echoing and the artist's interactions with her immediate surroundings: rooms known by heart, neighborhood rituals, and family artifacts. These particular circumstances lend themselves to a cumulative practice, one defined by overlapping histories and reflections on temporality. The paintings investigate the banal alongside the uncanny, echoing the artist's environment and experience through literal depictions of place. Memory is explored not as a neural experience, but as a doorway to the supernatural, a tool to revisit past occurrences and add to them. Light insinuates the presence of other planes, posing sunbeams and shadows as signs of ghosts gone unseen. In parallel, the paintings treasure quotidian objects, positioning them as the grounding element for more ephemeral notions.

These reverberations carry through the show's installation, choreographed by the gallery in collaboration with Tharsing and photographed by Alan Rideout. The paintings are aligned—sometimes exactly—with the site of their inspiration, forming thresholds between each iteration. The home serves as the stage for an ongoing dialogue: these photographs reveal Tharsing's environment, the paintings, her reality. The works can be welcoming, nostalgic, meditative, and melancholy; they may reveal complex inspirations while concealing private details. More distant memories of sitting in the kitchen with her parents or watching them work in the studio are layered with recent happenings: passing quietly through the garden, returning home from a long journey, greeting her beloved dog, Benny. Tharsing presents a portrait of this complex and precious place, navigating spirits, legacy, and mundane objects alike.

Chez Elle is on view online at www.marchgallery.org from September 1–October 12, 2021.

For more information: info@marchgallery.org.