

Cécile Lempert Splits and Screens

Opening Tuesday February 4th 2025 from 5.30pm to 8.30pm
Exhibition from February 5th to March 1st



Cécile Lempert, *Splits and Screens II*, 2025, watercolor on paper, 70 x 90 cm

'Perhaps the immobility of the things around us is imposed on them by our certainty that they are them and not others, by the immobility of our thought in front of them.' Marcel Proust, extract from *From Swann's Place* (1908)

Galerie Elsa Meunier is delighted to present the work of German artist Cécile Lempert in her exhibition *Splits and Screens*. This is the artist's second solo exhibition at the gallery.

Cécile Lempert dissects, isolates and recombines a gaze, a landscape, a skin, and and thus breaks free from the tight grip of our human relationships. This new series, *Splits and Screens*, which presents a set of seven medium-format watercolours on paper, as well as paintings and preparatory watercolours, marks a continuation of the work developed by the artist this year, on the one hand, based on the splitting up of autonomous works, her own *Leibl Studies*, inspired by the German painter Wilhelm Leibl (1844-1900); secondly, a study of the painting *An evening over Potsdam / Abend über Potsdam* by the German painter Lotte Laserstein (1898-1993), painted in 1930. Cécile Lempert has already held an exhibition on this subject, *An evening far*, presented in Berlin in 2024. By assembling these renewed subjects, the artist seizes the opportunity to glimpse what lies behind the illusion of society, the reality of our contemporary solitude.

As in Lotte Laserstein's work, these fragments of people of all ages, their eyes lowered, fleeing, their faces turned away, could just as easily be found around a large table, at the end of a meal with friends or family that we might first imagine to be lively, then plunged into silence. The stony silence that often closes this gathering, the quintessential social gathering, often precedes the arrival of a storm. A storm of absorbed thoughts, regaining strength, or gathered in nostalgic memories of the past. These thoughts are also those of the unmentionable, encompassing the self and the world, submerged in urgency, conflicts assailing us from all sides and against which no conversation, however well conducted, ever seems to come to an end. I can't help wondering in which direction each of the protagonists' inner mills is turning. This reunion of characters, split, juxtaposed and moved into new compositions, demonstrates the multiplicity of possible scenarios on the screen of the canvas. The arrested scene played out before our eyes could be applied, repeated, but never resolved.

Retaining a detail, a gesture, reworking them ad infinitum to reconstruct time and create a new reading space, these are the processes used by Cécile Lempert to show us that the alone-together is a motif. Explored, it reveals the intimate hidden in the mundane of changing emotions, and without the need for words. The reflections of the watery paint themselves reveal the layers of pigments diluted into a mille-feuilles, witnesses to our nuances, our density and our evaporation anchored in the apprehension of the present.

Cécile Lempert plays on our personal and collective powerlessness, without trying to force anyone to speak up or impose herself. In addition, she questions the isolation engendered by silence as much as its promise of hope, introspection and reflection, all of which are necessary before renewing an action that transforms a circle, but above all its time.

Eloïse Duguay

Cécile Lempert
(Born in 1994 - Dortmund, Germany)

Cécile Lempert lives and works in Cologne. The artist studied at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf under Prof. Peter Piller and Prof. Stefan Kürten, graduating in 2021.

Cécile Lempert presented her first solo exhibition with the gallery in 2023. It was also her first solo exhibition in Paris. Recently a selection of her work was shown in the 'Timepsaces' group exhibition at the gallery.

The artist's work has been the subject of several solo exhibitions in Germany, the United-States, China and South Korea. These include exhibitions at CASTLE (Los Angeles), Super Super Markt (Berlin), Leo Gallery (Shanghai), Braunsfelder (Cologne), Efremidis (Berlin), Baustelle Schaustelle (Essen) and IAH Gallery (Seoul). Cécile Lempert's work has also been presented at several international art fairs: Material fair, Mexico (2025), Art Cologne (2023) and June Art Fair, Basel (2023).

Elsa Meunier

Galerie Elsa Meunier

15 rue Guénégaud

Tuesday by appointment only

Wednesday to Friday : 2pm - 7pm

Saturday : 11am - 1pm / 2pm - 6pm