

Sofia Berakha

*Tartán*

February 8 – April 9, 2022

I have an artificial leather handbag, violet-fuchsia color with a reptile texture. Round silver metal hooks connect to each other and transform into chains. There is one on each side of the bag and they are joined in a rectangle that is the one that rests on the shoulder. This rectangle is what helps the weight of everything we carry with us down the street not hurt so much. There are other decorative details, such as a large buckle and diamonds attached to the violet material, which generate a fantasy-sexy-fun.

When I open the bag, a very garish white light comes out in the form of straight lines so strong that they make the dark parts of my eyes spiral and start spinning. The light comes from an off-white, shiny and artificial silk-like fabric with the brand's logo printed all over the inside of the bag. The letters and drawings start to break down until they are golden doodles that caress my belongings, which now rest in this room, handbag, room.

What do I take with me when I go out? My house, my bed, my bathroom, my closet, my kitchen. My phone with all my photos, likes and conversations. Makeup and pills in case I need them. The wallet. My keychain with the keys to the studio, the car, the baby stroller, the padlock, more chains.

I try to look inside the inside pocket of the bag but the light doesn't reach there and it doesn't manage to be reflected by the white cloth. It is absolutely dark. The pocket seems to have no end, it is getting deeper and colder. I get in there and start walking into the unknown. I stop in the corner. I'm walking through a city where I don't know what language they speak. I want to go unnoticed. I don't want to make mistakes. To be unknown. I try to observe the behavior of all those who walk without hesitation. But my eyes continue like two spinning spirals and make my walk deform. Zig zag, straight line, 360 degree turn, straight line to the other side. Would I go unnoticed if I put on sunglasses?

By this time I'm so dizzy that I don't know how to translate striped pants or a building into paint, I can't find any difference between one and the other. Straight line from top to bottom that is repeated along -or width- of the canvas.

In the territory of shapes, there is a small square next to a square, window, window, striped sweater, verticals, horizontals that intersect and form a checkered pattern of wool or bricks. Perhaps in this place they speak the language of painting.

Red, green and purple tartan. White illuminated sign with letters in Prussian blue. Striped mohair sweater: black, red, fuchsia and beige. Black Volvo. A worn light blue denim jacket. Lead gray metal shutter with red and silver graffiti. Pine green tree. Yellow Mercedes Benz truck. Silver chains.

*Sofia Berakha (Buenos Aires, 1984) lives and works in Buenos Aires and Berlin. Solo exhibitions include Paintings Arranged, 3rd Floor Berlin, Berlin (2019), Autopartes, Aldo de Sousa Gallery, Buenos Aires (2018), and Melodrama Panorama, Big Sur Gallery, Buenos Aires (2016). She studied in the Artists Program at Torcuato Di Tella University, Buenos Aires (2012) and in the Master of Arts in the class of Jutta Koether at Hochschule für bildende Künste, Hamburg (2018).*

Exhibited Works (From left to right)

*Incognito Dress Code I, 2021*

Oil on canvas

185 x 125 cm (72.83 x 49.21 in)

*Incognito Dress Code II, 2021*

Oil on canvas

185 x 135 cm (72.83 x 53.14 in)

*Dress Code View, 2021*

Oil on canvas, chains

185 x 110 cm (72.83 x 43.3 in)

*Mohair Parking, 2021*

Oil on canvas

185 x 125 cm (72.83 x 49.21 in)

*Sweater, 2021*

Oil on canvas, chains

185 x 55 cm (72.83 x 21.65 in)

*Espiral, 2021*

Oil and spray paint on canvas

185 x 240 cm (72.83 x 98.42 in)

*Tartan, 2021*

Oil on canvas

185 x 125 cm (72.83 x 49.21 in)

*Tartan Bouclé, 2021*

Oil on canvas

185 x 65 cm (72.83 x 25.59 in)

*Tartan Parking, 2021*

Oil and acrylic on canvas

185 x 125 cm (72.83 x 49.21 in)

*Tartan V40, 2021*

Oil and acrylic on canvas, chains

185 x 110 cm (72.83 x 43.3 in)

*Velvet Parking, 2021*

Oil on canvas

185 x 125 cm (72.83 x 49.21 in)