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Jette van der Lende

Excerpt from:

**PAINTINGS BY JETTE VAN DER LENDE:
WHISPERS IN AN EMPTY AMPHITHEATER**

Jette van der Lende's realistic oils have the preternatural capacity to stop time. Or at least slow time down. In his novel *Slowness* Milan Kundera writes: "A word uttered in a small enclosed space has a different meaning from the same word resonating in an amphitheater. No

longer is it a word for which he holds full responsibility and which is addressed exclusively to the partner, it is a word that other people demand to hear, people who are there, looking at them. True the amphitheater is empty, but even though it is empty, the audience, imagined and imaginary, potential and virtual, is there, is with them." With van der Lende the scale of the works may be small and yet we as viewers seem to be witnessing the birth of something special, an object caught in a cat's cradle of relations (optical and mental) with other objects and the space that envelops them. This artist has the uncanny ability to create visionary work that intimates the sacred souls and sacred lives of the circumstances of objects in the world.

Jette van der Lende creates slow artworks that bespeak of great things in intimate detail. Her artworks serve as mirrors to us, reflecting timeless internal configurations of the self, imitating in some manner models in an external world, but also proudly defining the mirror as if only subservient to the Idea that Oscar Wilde defines as: "it is the spectator, and not life, that art really mirrors".

D.F. Colman is an art writer based in Manhattan.



"Abuse & care" 30 x 60 cm.