SPHERES BAUKJE SPALTRO

Green conversation 2 90 x 105 cm mixed technique on linnen 2012-2013

SPHERES

Baukje Spaltro's work is about colour and showing invisible aspects of our current society. She mainly works in series, each series requires its own time, often it's years.
Her series Spheres (2011-2020) is about the 'atmosphere', as a phenomenon and identifier in our society, like a coloured bubble as (temporary) identity. This series is inspired by the trilogy Spheres (2003) by philosopher Peter Sloterdijk. He quotes:

"The question of WHERE we are is more meaningful than ever and more important than the question of WHAT we are. We need to focus on the place that people create to be who they are. This place I have given the name atmosphere. Spheres are space creations that act as an immune system."

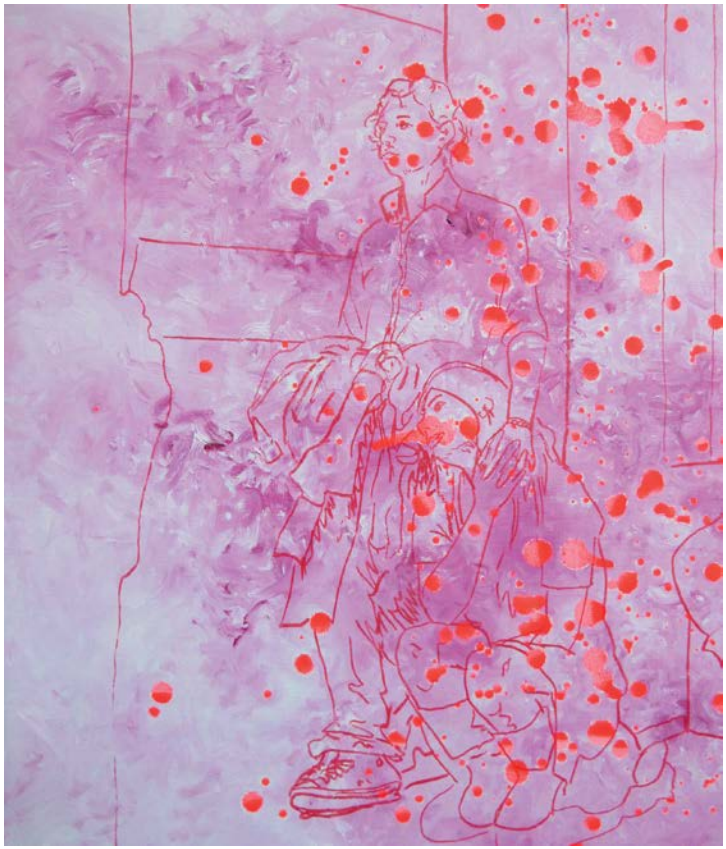
Current European urban society is about group formation, lifestyle, and marketing. It's fast, and casual and consists of several Spheres: bubbles, temporary identities, and networks of connectivity. Sometimes you are inside the network and sometimes out, you are excluded.

Spheres are like networks, own created non-physical spaces. They are not anchored spots, but fleeting places. Personal creations and relationships that express an atmosphere through colours and boundaries. The Sphere interprets a temporary thought, mood, and identity of persons. It can reflect a relationship, a group mentality or a conversation. The colour determines the atmosphere, it provokes a visual identity and appearance to a situation.

With colours, Spaltro wants to catch the essence of these irrational spaces on the canvas. She always paints on bright fluor underlayers. Colour is an important element in her work for indicating the irrational. 'Fluor' colours are highly saturated, they are dominant and determine my observation and enforce specific and instinctive painterly choices. On a pink fluor background, each colour is looking entirely different than on a white or neutral background. The fluor causes an almost physical and direct reaction by the artist while painting, not her thinking but her intuition is being called upon. This series has a colour palette of (neon)green and violet. A colour choice that doesn't match but seduces the viewer to look longer. Colour determines the identity and spirit of the image. When colour shimmers it creates depth and meaning; the image is tangible.

Thymos, after Plato Human character: rage, ravenge, courage and pride 130 x 180 cm mixed technique on linnen 2015

Breathless 1, war 70 x 80 cm mixed technique on linnen 2011



Breathless 2, in love 80 x 70 cm mixed technique on linnen 2012

Breathless 4, Ficus 140 x 100 cm mixed technique on linnen 2012-2013

Green Blue conversation 140 x 145 cm mixed technique on linnen 2014

Meet me in my Bubble, anatomic lesson (after Thomas Eakins The Agnew Clinic) 120 x 140 cm mixed technique on linnen 2014

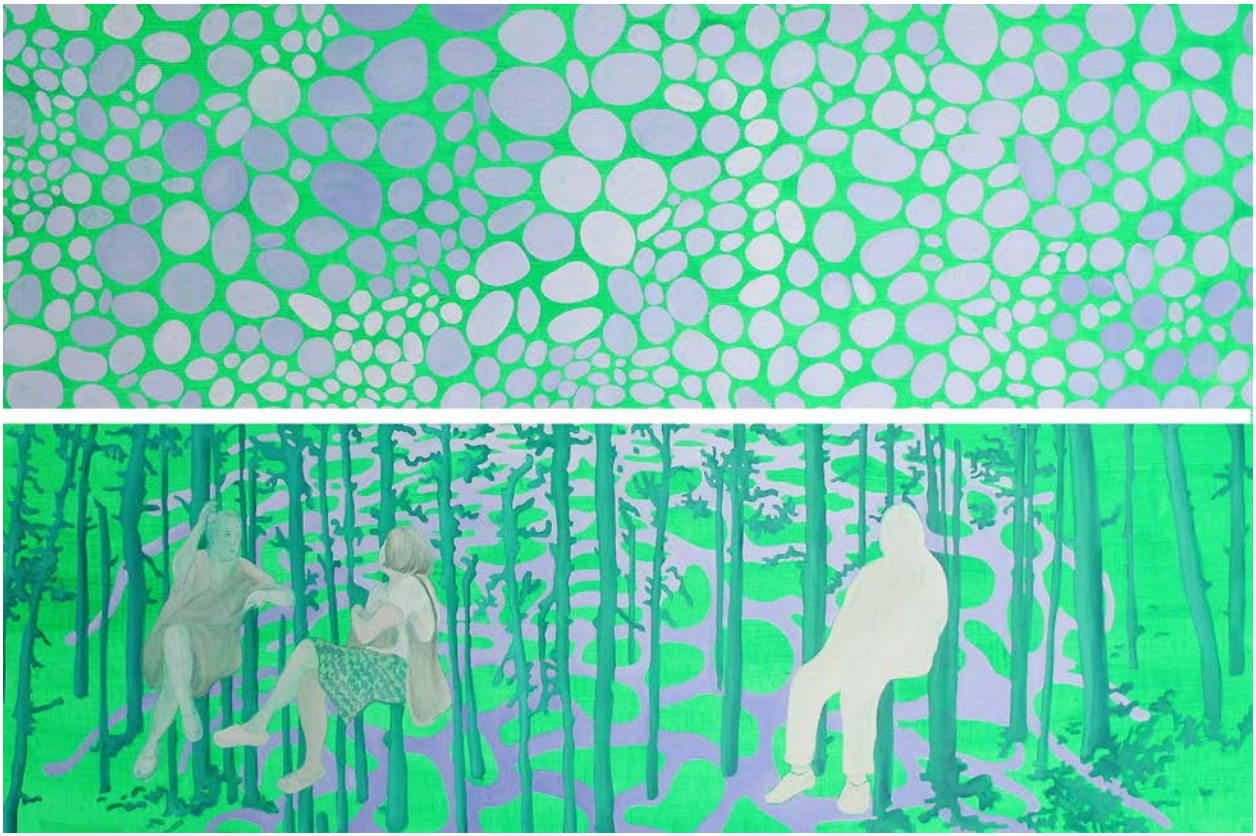
Lovers bubble 78 x 70.5 cm mixed technique on linnen 2013-2014

Forgive my Fears (after Forgive my tears by Dez-Mona - album Moments of Dejection and Despondency)

120 x 145 cm mixed technique on linnen 2016

Ikea Dreamers 100 x 100 cm mixed technique on linnen 2019

Bimba Blú (blue girl) ficus I 100 x 100 cm mixed technique on linnen 2011



La Solitudine (de eenzaamheid , het grijze gebeid) dyptich 130x200 cm mixed technique on linnen 2014

Friends on a bench 50 x 75 cm mixed technique on linnen 2018

Ophelia (after John Everett Millais) 100 x 120 cm mixed technique on linnen 2015-2016

Inside 120 x 140 cm mixed technique on linnen 2013

Artists journey Hockney 130 x 100 cm mixed technique on linnen 2020

BIO

Baukje Spaltro, as her name reveals, is a Dutch Italian artist based in Amsterdam.

She was born in Milan and grew up in various Dutch cities. Crossing several European cities at a young age, she developed her interest in irrational urban spaces, invisible aspects that represent a personal or local identity.

She studied BA in Theater Design, AV and painting at the HKU - Art Academy Utrecht (NL) and MA in painting at the Accademia di Belle Arti Brera in Milan and a master of painting at the AIS in Amsterdam. Her work is exhibited in the Netherlands and abroad and is part of (inter) national art collections.

After her graduation, she painted the series VVDS, about the soul of her birthplace in Milan. The series Spheres in this catalogue is her ongoing research on the canvas about the invisible fluid bubbles we create and use to redefine ourselves as a group or as an individual. Since 2015, she started to investigate the local hidden identity of cities in her City Spheres installations. Paintings about the genius loci of urban areas, an invisible aspect of the local atmosphere. And about the urban space as a self-constructed local society. She has created and exhibited the City Spheres series in Den Helder, Amsterdam, Arnhem, Berlin, Den Helder, Haarlem, Milan and Turku (Fin). Currently, she is working on her tenth City Sphere Corvetto (Milan) and City Sphere Manifest.

In 2018 she created the InsideOUT Panorama with a community of 200 Frysian (ex) mental patients made for Leeuwarden Cultural Capital 2018.

As a contemporary art painter, she researches with colours on the canvas the invisible identity of our current European society. Inspired by the Roman genius loci and the trilogy Spheres by philosopher Peter Sloterdijk.
The moment, the place, and the daylight of a place determine her colour combinations of fluorescent and tonal colours. The fluorescent surfaces boycott effective thinking and force an intuitive perception. Colour unfolds the soul of a sphere, a person or place.

www.baukjespaltro.com

Little conversation I 40 x 60 cm mixed technique on linnen 2013

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