

DÉNESH GHYCZY

The Open Window

Bright rooms, clear views and walls of glass have characterised representative building since the beginning of modernism. Denesh Ghyczy's gentle oil paintings trace this light, which falls effectfully on the floors and walls of representative interiors, almost impressionistically on the outside. The light in his works, which always comes from outside, materialises in broad lines of colour - the golden currency of architectural interior design. The seductions of their impressionistic look are, however, only an external dimension of Denesh Ghyczy's works, which often seem old-masterly in their structure and subjects. In fact, his series of paintings "Inside Outside", begun in 2017, engages in the thoroughly cheeky exaggeration of a romantic-contemplative gesture towards nature that has a long tradition in the arts.

In the midst of Ghyczy's light-flooded interiors, the figures are often almost as small in scale as Caspar David Friedrich placed them in the immense infinity of his "world-souled" landscapes. As in the latter's skies and landscapes, which glide melancholically into the immeasurable, people in Ghyczy's pictures, which are just as thoroughly composed but lure with the brightness of spring, are usually represented as rear views. Like Friedrich's icons of Romanticism, the works of the contemporary painter, who runs his studio in Berlin, refer to the tragically unfulfillable longing for a union of all opposites.

Screened by window struts and glass joints, we look at what is outside like a picture. Have we not thereby degraded nature to a powerless and ineffective object of contemplation? Has it not become a mere supplier of visual qualities, such as light and colour?

The window, as Ghyczy illustrates in his metaphorically convincing works, is ultimately only a compromise between the contemplative proximity to nature and our need for protection, between the aesthetic presence of the landscape and its safe distance from us - and in this, according to the conclusive punch line, it is very much like painting after all.