

TREASURE ISLAND

Andrei Roiter

29 February - 11 April, 2020

Opening 29 February 2020, 5 - 7pm



Andrei Roiter, *Light Corner*, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 55 x 80 cm

Andrei Roiter's artistic practice for decades has concerned itself with finding ways to create visual statements about universal human experiences. In his new exhibition, *Treasure Island*, Andrei Roiter presents a new collection of painted abstract artefacts. Roiter spotlights these rather elemental forms and insists that they deserve our best attention.

In recent years, Andrei Roiter has moved towards a more personal and intuitive approach to image-making. Instead of deploying photography, as he did for many years, the artist allows for a more intuitive process in drawing and painting. Without reference to pre-existing images, these recent works are located somewhere between the familiar and the obscure. They transcend obvious definitions of abstraction and representation. Roiter wishes to translate complex and intangible experiences—solitude, melancholy, memory, hope and fear—into basic, fundamental forms, bringing to mind the work of Giorgio Morandi, whose simple shapes vibrate softly to touch us at our depths.

Architecture has long been a jumping off point for Andrei Roiter to address human conditions. Still following the rules of perspective, recent paintings show geometric shapes in line with minimalist sculpture and elements of modernist design, sometimes pointing to Russian Constructivism and Bauhaus. Roiter's works abide in ambivalence; images often contain a lighted glow amidst darkness, danger or void, and it is uncertain which is winning. It seems as if these paintings are asking if there can be optimism within an all-enveloping shroud of uncertainty and doubt.

Andrei Roiter was born in Moscow in 1960. He attended the Moscow Institute of Architecture from 1978-1980, during which time he began to show his works in underground exhibition spaces. Since the mid-80's Roiter took part in several international exhibitions of Russian art in Europe and the U.S. Since 1990, Roiter settled down in Europe, exhibiting in Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan and USA. Among the more notable exhibitions were those at Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland; SF Museum of Modern Art USA; Ludwig Forum-Aachen; Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, Germany; Schiedam State Museum, Netherlands; Kunstmuseum Solothurn, Switzerland; Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow; Schunck Museum, Heerlen; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands; Centre Pompidou, Paris and in Bonnefantenmuseum Maastricht and Museum Helmond in the Netherlands. His work is in many private and public collections throughout the globe, mostly in the US, Belgium and the Netherlands.