

MONYA ROWE GALLERY

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For Immediate Release

GRETCHEN SCHERER

Sometimes, Light

February 24 – April 2, 2022

Opening reception: Thursday, February 24, 6-8 PM

Monya Rowe Gallery is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of new paintings by **Gretchen Scherer** titled *Sometimes, Light*. This is the artist's second solo exhibition at Monya Rowe Gallery. The opening reception for the artist will be held on Thursday, February 24, 6-8 PM.

Scherer's new suite of paintings are largely based on historical homes in England that have been converted into museums and are now open to the public. Exploring homes, rather than traditional museums, was a deliberate decision by the artist: "With the homes there are stories of the people who lived there. Since we have all been spending a lot more time at home, it felt comfortable to work with this subject matter."

Scherer's paintings of interiors are reimagined depictions of museum collections painstakingly represented in miniature form. Each painting features masterworks displayed Salon-style reminiscent of 18th century exhibitions. However, Scherer doesn't simply replicate each masterwork. Her idiosyncratic depictions of paintings, sculptures and furniture give each artwork a new life, and even a sense of humor. After thoroughly researching a museum collection online, Scherer picks her favorite artworks and "displays" them in a carefully selected room of the museum. The room itself may also be altered. Playing the role of curator, Scherer lovingly scrutinizes a museum collection and space by envisioning it anew.

In *Sir John Soane Museum Library and Dining Room* (2021-22) a desk is cluttered with drawings, books, and a quill. The original dining room is removed. The writing materials are Sir John Soane's and the open book is a page from one of his many sketchbooks. There are more signs of life in this body of work than Scherer's previous paintings. However, each painting still remains an empty room devoid of people. There is a felt absence in the work given the undertone of themes such as loss, attachment and solitude. Within this painting, Scherer self-referentially included an image of one of her previous paintings titled *The Hidden Cabinets of Sir John Soane* (2019).

As Scherer examined each collection online, she began to think about the previous owners of the homes and the process of making and displaying artworks. As the title of the exhibition suggests, light subtly appears throughout the works. Light is shining in the rooms from doorways, windows, or skylights. One is left to wonder who is in the other room or who may have left the room, but it is also a metaphor for the conception of an idea, a symbol of creativity.

Gretchen Scherer (b. 1979, Indianapolis, IN) received a MFA from *Hunter College*, NY and a BFA from *The University of Illinois at Chicago*, IL. She has completed residencies at *Skowhegan School of Sculpture and Painting*, ME and *Vermont Studio Center*. Her work was recently exhibited in a two-person exhibition with Anne Buckwalter at Monya Rowe Gallery. Scherer's work was recently highlighted in *Harper's Bazaar Latin Art Issue* in "Artists to Follow in 2022", and in *New York Magazine* by Jerry Saltz in "The Best Art Shows of 2021". The artist lives and works in West Creek, NJ and Brooklyn, NY. Scherer is represented by Monya Rowe Gallery.

Gallery hours

Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 6 PM

Upcoming

LARISSA BATES

For more information or images please contact the gallery at info@monyarowegallery.com

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