

Thelma Speirs
Kavel Rafferty
Cats In Crisis
25/03/22 - 01/05/22

Kavel Rafferty at Hotel Michele 231 Northdown Rd Margate, CT92PJ

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Cats In Crisis

'I postulate that cats started as psychic companions, as familiars, and have never deviated from this function' William S. Burroughs 'The Cat Inside'

'Cats in Crisis' the opening exhibition at Hotel Michele takes its title from charitable organisation that once occupied the shop opposite, and brings together new works by Kavel Rafferty and Thelma Speirs that marks a shift in direction, from commercial illustration and fashion towards making as artists for exhibition spaces.

Thelma Speirs presents us with a series of abstracted pop portraits made up of commonplace children's stickers that convey observations she has made of the cats she has known and loved. Swapping the pencil, the brush and more recently the etching plate for these stickers, the artist seeks to capture the unruly nature of her subjects; Captain, Didi, Kelloggs, Mimi, Mouse, Skipper & Ted. Through these kitsch constructions Speirs is questioning the material values, aesthetic hierarchies and taste systems that exist within art.

Kavel Rafferty makes assemblages from printed matter that she has collected from various thrift stores and auction sites. When these collections are organised, patterns start to emerge and this provides her with content to and meaning add significance from their commercial usage. These printed things then go through a subtle process of manipulation to either erase or single out that meaning or create a new form that is individual and unique. In 'The Affirmations' the viewer is presented with a series of vintage posters that have been virtually obliterated with enamel paint, leaving a statement that has been reverse highlighted and a visual clue to the image hiding underneath. These affirmations act as particular bug-bears for the artist who wonders whether they have any meaning at all, or just act as subtle devices or sweet nothings for marketing and public relations gurus to push familiar content through various printed and digital platforms.



1. Skipper. Thelma Speirs
Collage on Cartridge Paper
49cm x 66.5cm
Framed £700



2. Mouse and Captain. Thelma Speirs
Collage on Cartridge Paper
49cm x 66.5cm
Framed £700



3. Team Captain. Thelma Speirs
Collage on Cartridge Paper
49cm x 66.5cm
Framed £700



4. Didi. Thelma Speirs
Collage on Cartridge Paper
49cm x 66.5cm
Framed £700



5. Skipper and Kelloggs. Thelma Speirs
Collage on Cartridge Paper
49cm x 66.5cm
Framed £700



6. Mouse. Thelma Speirs
Collage on Cartridge Paper
49cm x 66.5cm
Framed £700



7. Kelloggs. Thelma Speirs
Collage on Cartridge Paper
49cm x 66.5cm
Framed £700



8. Untitled. Kavel Rafferty
Collage on Postcard
44cm x 62cm
£650 Framed



9. Untitled. Kavel Rafferty
Collage on Postcard
44cm x 62cm
£650 Framed



10. Untitled. Kavel Rafferty
Collage on Postcard
44cm x 62cm
£650 Framed



11. Untitled. Kavel Rafferty
Collage on Postcard
44cm x 62cm
£650 Framed



12. Untitled. Kavel Rafferty
Collage on Postcard
44cm x 62cm
£650 Framed



13. A little more us. Kavel Rafferty
Paint on Poster
63cm x 88cm
£800 Framed



14. Easy to please. Kavel Rafferty
Paint on Poster
63cm x 88cm
£800 Framed



15. Friends. Kavel Rafferty
Paint on Poster
63cm x 88cm
£800 Framed



16. Untitled. Kavel Rafferty
Paint on Postcard
44cm x 62cm
£650 Framed



17. Untitled. Kavel Rafferty
Paint on Postcard
44cm x 62cm
£650 Framed



18. Untitled. Kavel Rafferty
Paint on Postcard
44cm x 62cm
£650 Framed



19. Untitled. Kavel Rafferty
Paint on Postcard
63cm x 88cm
£800 Framed



20. Untitled. Kavel Rafferty
Paint on Postcard
63cm x 88cm
£800 Framed



19. Only feelings. Kavel Rafferty
Collage and paint on board.
185cm x 122cm
£1600 Framed