



Karen Kilimnik

the wicche's stables, half formed, Hampshire, 2008

Water soluble oil color and acrylic on canvas
18 by 24 inches (45.5 by 61 cm.)
Titled & dated *verso*

Exhibited

Pittsburgh, Carnegie Museum of Art, *Carnegie International, 57th Edition*, 13 October 2018 - 25 March 2019
New York, 303 Gallery, *Karen Kilimnik*, 1 November – 20 December 2019

Note

Philadelphia-born and based Karen Kilimnik conjoins components while constructing her own universe. Whether portraits, still lifes, or landscapes, the artist filters her inner imaginary world through source material procured from museum catalogues and exhibitions. Drawing correspondences between romantic tradition and consumer culture, Kilimnik's work brings a haunting and contrary sense of beauty to contemporary art. The world of the ballet and childhood, romantic painting and pop music, icons of film and fashion, witchcraft, time-travel, and crime comprise an imagery that has been culled from the fairytale and recent past into an unsettling present. In a world where the forces of nature, youth, and terror have taken awesome hold, Kilimnik's paintings rematerialize a quest for the romantic sublime.

Often fascinated by life in England, for *the wicche's stables* Kilimnik transports us to Hampshire, home of Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, and Florence Nightingale. Rather than a castle or grand estate, the artist has chosen a farmhouse and stable, her title insinuating that this is where sorcery takes place. Paired with her predecessor, British-Greek Marie Spartali Stillman (1844-1927), member of the second generation of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, we are enchanted by romantic country life. Like Kilimnik's painting, Stillman's watercolor of Kelmscott Manor, draws great inspiration from the unspoiled authenticity of the Cotswold home's architecture and garden of William Morris and his wife Jane, who would continue her romantic liaison with Dante Gabriel Rossetti, enjoying the happiest chapter of their liaison at the mansion.



Marie Spartali Stillman, *Kelmscott Manor*, c. 1905
Watercolor & body color on paper, 27.9 x 55.9 cm.

Concurrent with Master Drawings, an exhibition of works by Karen Kilimnik and her old master predecessors, *The Kingdom of the Renaissance*, curated by Mireille Mosler, will take place at Sprüth Magers, 22 East 80th Street, 2nd floor through March 18, 2023.