

Stefano Faoro: *Students*

26 October - 19 November 2023 / Caravan at Myntgata 2, 0151 Oslo, www.crvn.no

Opening Thursday, October 26th at 5 - 8 pm

The student is an interstitial entity. It is more a state of being than a personhood. Think about how we refer to students as a student body—a collective whole. France, where I live now, I am coming to find, is obsessed with your status: what are you? The possibility of being a freelancer is a newly elaborated status, for example. ‘Student’ is a time-honored classic, so much more protected, encouraged and funded here in Europe. When I immigrated from the United States, my German visa said “for the study of ‘frei malerei’”, which translates roughly to ‘free painting’. Militant is also a legal status.

(Looking at the video stills in Stefano Faoro’s publication *The young fascist militant*, I’m getting nauseous. The so familiar banality and loneliness of this German landscape comes back to me like a fear. Surely this is just my own association with that place I have so recently left, but is there something built into this flatness, this ubiquitousness, that wants to say: stable society, working system? Is it a bit unnerving for you too? The ambiance of this nearly totally ambivalent surround is loudly quiet. The title is itself a banal provocation. What does this have to do with that - is one of these, the young ambivalent painter and the young fascist militant more or less threatening than the other, less involved with reality, or more political?)

These canvases are representative of student bodies. Or they are images of students at rest, on vacation. They approximate the flimsy accommodations of students “abroad”—at a youth hostel. They also feel like army cots. Young people sleeping on the go, part of a process, a progress.

I recorded a conversation with Stefano last month that I am sharing on my blog, mostly unedited, with you. All of this above, and in the conversation, is just context—to elaborate what might be happening around the work in this room—to describe the circumstances the work is constituted by. There are also just the works (paintings) and the title and the room itself, or?

Graham Hamilton

Stefano Faoro lives and works in Italy. Recent projects include, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino, Kunstverein Nürnberg Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft, Nürnberg, Caravan, Oslo, Progetto, Lecce, FANTA, Milano, NOUSMOULES c/o L’Etoile Endettée, Berlin.