

After the Event, a dialogue of fading moments

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Sometimes an everyday scene tells more than is apparent at first glance. That is exactly what Graeme Wilcox and Dirk Roseport explore in the joint exhibition *After the Event* at vcrb gallery. Two artists, two media, and yet a subtle cross-pollination of ideas about memory, time and the fluidity of human experience. Wilcox, a master of figurative painting, and Roseport, a photographer who makes memories tangible through Polaroid images, take us to an in-between space where reality and imagination go hand in hand.

Graeme Wilcox, poetry from the streets

Graeme Wilcox is a painter of people, but mostly of their stories. His work always starts from the everyday reality of Glasgow. Each painting is a fragment from his daily walks through the city, but instead of simply capturing what he sees, he adds layers of imagination. This creates a world that is as recognizable as it is alienating. His characters are not anonymous figures, but bearers of unspoken stories.

In the series of works on show in *After the Event*, Wilcox focuses his gaze on chefs he meets during their breaks behind a restaurant. The moment when they briefly escape the hustle and bustle of the kitchen, light up a cigarette, or simply stare out in thought. These seem banal moments at first glance, but Wilcox paints them with an intensity that suggests there is more at play. The painting *The Quiet Moment*, for example, shows two cooks in the soft light of early morning. Is this the end of a long shift, or the beginning of a new day? Wilcox deliberately leaves the question open, allowing the viewer to fill in their own story.

Wilcox is not an artist who reveals everything in detail. His backgrounds are often vague and anonymous, like a stage on which actors appear and disappear. This gives his paintings a cinematic character: they suggest that something has happened or is about to happen, but the precise contours remain mysterious. This is the strength of Wilcox's work: it invites reflection, to finish the story he is merely setting up. His subtle play with light and shadow, and the slight blurring in his works, enhance this effect. His figures appear to be standing still, but you sense that they could start moving again at any moment.

Yet Wilcox also shows a clear evolution in his recent work. Whereas before he often chose a flat, minimalist background, now more details pop up. A dog lying in a corner, a blanket breaking the void. These subtle changes suggest that Wilcox is beginning to reveal more and more of the world around his characters. However, it always remains muted, as if they are just shadows of reality.

Dirk Roseport, lost memories as an art form

On the other side of the dialogue is Dirk Roseport, a Belgian photographer who manages to poetically capture the transience of memories. Whereas Wilcox works with observations and the addition of imagination, Roseport concentrates on what happens after a memory begins to fade. His series *Fading Memories* consists of Polaroid images that are later digitized and enlarged. The result is a series of photographs that seem to hover between the concrete and the abstract. Roseport began his career in advertising, but later switched to art photography. His images are an ode to the imperfect and the transient. A Polaroid, once sharp and bright, begins to fade with time. For many, this would be a loss, but for Roseport, therein lies a form of beauty. His work shows how memories transform, how they are transformed by time into something soft, something mysterious. In *Fading Memories*, Roseport explores exactly that process of blurring. What happens to a memory after the details disappear? What remains when the sharp image gives way to something vague, something elusive? These are questions that viewers inevitably begin to ask themselves when standing in front of Roseport's works. The photographs are imbued with melancholy, but at the

same time they offer a certain comfort: even when we forget something, something always remains - a feeling, a shadow, an echo of what once was.

Technically, Roseport's work is as interesting as his subject matter. Although his photographs are digitally processed, he does not play around with Photoshop or elaborate post-production. He manipulates his camera himself, playing with settings and movement to achieve the desired effects. The results are images that, despite their vagueness, have a striking emotional power. They strike a sensitive chord with the viewer because they remind us of how fleeting memories can be, and how our past is always subject to change.

A tender conversation about time

In *After the Event*, a tender dialogue develops between Wilcox and Roseport. Where Wilcox focuses on the human figure and the stories they bring with them, Roseport concentrates on the memories left behind after the moment is over. Their work complements each other beautifully. Both are fascinated by time and the way events fade or transform in our memory. Both invite the viewer not only to look at the image, but also to reflect on what lies behind or after that image.

The title of the exhibition, *After the Event*, sums up this dialogue perfectly. The moment itself is over, but what remains? How do we remember what happened? What fades and what remains sharp in our memory? These are the questions Wilcox and Roseport explore in their own unique way.

Wilcox captures the moments that have just passed, those small everyday scenes that most people might not even notice. His paintings are an ode to the silence between actions, to the moments of reflection, when life seems to stand still for a moment. Roseport, on the other hand, explores what happens after those moments are over - when memory begins to fade and only a feeling or a vague impression remains.

Together, they create an exhibition that challenges viewers to think about their own memories, the moments that linger in our memory, and the things we may have forgotten. *After the Event* is an invitation to reflect on what we remember, and what we forget. Wilcox and Roseport do not give us definitive answers, but instead offer space for reflection and interpretation. Their work is an ode to the passage of time and to the beauty of the moment that fades but never quite disappears.