

Amelia Carroll - Patagonia 2021

Amelia Carroll might be young, but her breath taking landscapes show the perspective of a seasoned traveller. Amelia has travelled across Europe, North America and has most recently in 2019 been to Patagonia, where she experienced an adventure unlike any other.

Speaking to the artist, it's easy to see her adventurous and enthusiastic character, she has a zest for nature and life and this comes through effortlessly in her paintings. Her previous works showcase the manicured and cultivated landscapes from Scotland to Switzerland, but her upcoming show *Patagonia*, depict a more wild side - not just the picturesque.

In this new series, Amelia depicts extraordinary scenes from her last travel destination, Patagonia. The wild strip of land that exists at the very bottom of Chile and Argentina. This landscape is known for its extreme and unpredictable weather conditions, that may even dissuade the bravest of travellers from visiting. Amelia said it had been a dream of hers to visit Patagonia for a number of years, she finally bit the bullet in 2019 and packed her bags with her boyfriend and set off on the adventure of a lifetime. Stating that they only planned the airfares and the hotel upon landing, the rest was up to nature and the speed of their car.

Renting a car, they made their way down the winding roads of Patagonia stopping to see sites, take photos and hike mountains - armed with a Canon D5, a 35mm Pentax and her iPhone, Amelia was more than prepared to take photos of the sublime landscapes that left great impressions on her artistic impulses. Noting that sometimes she just knew she wanted to make a painting from a precise location and photo. Amelia uses photography as a trigger to create an artwork. It's a reminder of the atmosphere, the location, the feeling and the aesthetic of place. The image is light and vectors meeting, but the final artwork is Amelia imbuing the paint with her emotion and her personal experience of the place. They might seem like stunning postcards but they feel like living memories.

Unlike Gerhard Richter, Amelia is not trying to make a photographic image through the medium of paint, but rather use it as a tool to express a physical location. The image becomes a conduit for translation - translation of memory and of place. Much like the sculptor Rodin carving sculptures out of marble and leaving parts untouched. Carroll leaves parts of the image untouched, leaves the remnants of the digital - in the blur of the landscape - but brings so much more to the paint, bringing to it her lived adventure, not just a perfect photographic image. She also uses creative licence, removing a tree or a cloud if it does work with the composition of the painting. The photographic images aids in the creation of the painting, but it is not a replica.

Amelia states that Patagonia was the wildest landscape she's ever experienced, a place where you could truly feel every single element. This is evident in her paintings, the texture of the fog and snow come alive with every brushstroke, making the experience of the landscape feel visceral. Carroll says she loves painting snow. Snow is her absolute favourite landscape due to its magical ability to transform. It transforms light and sound and transforms landscapes into completely new surroundings. It's different, majestic, ethereal and perhaps, temporary - they are constantly different from what they were the day before. And maybe her painting these landscapes is an attempt to seal them in her memory forever.

- Althea Kuzman 2021