

***from Saturday 4th February, 5pm  
Gallery Eric Dupont invite you to the exhibition***

**YIGAL OZERI - CAFÉ HAWELKA**

Our February exhibition is dedicated to Yigal Ozeri's recent paintings. A series created upon his return from Vienna, the exhibition's title, Café Hawelka, recalls other famous cafés where the artistic and literary world gathered.

The Café Hawelka in Vienna -- like the Obnecni Dum café in Prague or the café New York Hungaria in Budapest -- is one of the last remnants of a long tradition of writer's cafes in Central Europe. Léopold Hawelk and his wife Josephine manage this establishment much as they did 60 years ago when they opened it. Many artists -- from Nicolas Hannoncourt, the orchestra chief to the Austrian painter Arnulf Rainer -- still meet there today:

Ozeri expresses a warm and nostalgic atmosphere through his paintings. The eyes plunge into intimate scenes in which we discover Elisabeth, the artist's favourite model, reading a newspaper or sitting at a table having tea with Leopold Hawelka himself. Yigal Ozeri's paintings give us the opportunity to relive this refined Viennese atmosphere. Stirring up our own souvenirs, they transport us as if by flashback to the mythic time and place inhabited by so many intellectuals. Of course, we think of Robert Musil but also, despite the different style, of Thomas Bernhard, Werner Schwab or Evelyn Schlag. The shadows of these poets and writers float among the artworks in this exhibition.

In these oil paintings on canvas or paper, the light is soft and the nuances are warm; their sensuality leaves us wondering. We abandon ourselves to the feelings evoked by these artworks, sinking, with pleasure, into dereliction.

Eric Dupont

\* About this place, we can read 'Café Hawelka' from Jean-Paul Bourre.

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