

SOPHIE WESTERLIND

*1985, Sweden. Lives and works in Venice (Italy).



Tintoretto's table, 2017 – 2018
Drawings – pencil on paper, 33 x 48 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Gandy gallery

The series of drawings by Sophie Westerlind are inspired by the Venetian painter Tintoretto's works on the Last Supper. She started her research drawing freely from the paintings found in the many churches across Venice. Westerlind has then been imagining herself walking around the table, drawing the scene from various view points. The emotions expressed in the body language of the figures in the renaissance works recall similar scenes between people today. The space where people share a meal together feels intimate. Moving around the table in her imagination makes it feel like a scene that constantly changes. Westerlind seems to be discovering something new whenever she enters this space in her imagination, drawing the scene over and over again.

Sophie Westerlind started her artistic journey in London 2007 at Central Saint Martins' with Bobby Gunthorpe. Ideas, engaging with people and John Berger's writings about the art of looking became the central elements that still accompany her artistic practice along with her passion for drawing people who are part of her everyday life. At the Royal College of Art (2013), Sophie kept exploring the subject of drawing with Dilip Sur and Martin Morris. Experimental mark-making and drawing from life in situations that require focus and spontaneity became key elements. Being used to draw at high speed makes it highly stimulating for Sophie to draw with charcoal on paper during performances and workshops where movement is central. Her obsession with exploring and learning about the human figure brought her to Italy and Venice in 2013 where she enrolled at the Accademia di Belle Arte di Venezia. The human face is a theme that continues to fascinate her and is a recurrent theme in her paintings and sculptures. She uses references such as her own photographs or drawings mostly to remind her of the feeling about a person or a special relationship between people. Likeness is not important, but she prefers to work directly from life since it is highly inspiring to work with a living person in front of her.