

# HESSE FLATOW

**Kirsten Deirup: *EX VOTO IN SILICO***

October 26 - December 2, 2023

Opening reception: October 26, 6-8pm

HESSE FLATOW is pleased to present *EX VOTO IN SILICO*, an exhibition of paintings and works on paper by Kirsten Deirup, marking her second solo exhibition with the gallery.

Derived from the Latin term “voto” for votive or offering, and the pseudo Latin “in silico” for when an object has been run through a computer, the exhibition’s title references the clashing of items created by the human hand and its parallel simulacrum produced by Artificial Intelligence.



Deirup’s compositions centralize gem-encrusted flowers improbably sprouting from the ground or vessels and spray bottles materializing in unlikely locations. Proxying as totems, items are deliberately placed despite appearing nonsensical. There is an encroaching sense of the uncanny within Deirup’s futuristic dreamscapes. Peculiar arrangements of objects beyond the scope of their typical domain suggest a human presence despite the absence of the figure. A gloved hand masks the robot underneath, while the plastic materiality of spray bottles has been anthropomorphized.

Placing herself in the mind of a sentient robot, Deirup attempts to understand where thinking and communication are lost in translation. The interchange between the real and digital reveal possible “glitches” highlighted in Deirup’s works. In *Year Zero*, she imagines AI reinventing the story of Genesis, misunderstanding a tennis ball as a stand-in for a fruit on the Tree of Life. While this equivalence may be viewed as an intentional act of symbolism, entrenched in a distinctly human impulse to organize and create meaning, AI’s mandate to replicate similar thought processes comes across as a critical error, ironically resulting in the humanizing of the machine.

**Kirsten Deirup** (b. 1980, Berkeley, CA) graduated from The Cooper Union in 2003. She has had solo exhibitions at HESSE FLATOW, New York, NY; de boer gallery, Los Angeles, CA, Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, NY; Guild and Greyschul, New York, NY; and Rare, New York, NY. Group exhibitions include: Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, NY; Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York, NY; Marc Wolf Contemporary Art, San Francisco, CA; Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA; and Roberts and Tilton, Los Angeles, CA. She has completed residencies at the Palazzo Monti in Brescia, Italy, the Farpath Foundation in Dijon, France, and Idlewild, CA. Her work is held in the permanent collection of MoMA, New York. She currently lives and works in Hudson Valley, New York.

For press inquiries, please contact [press@hesseflatow.com](mailto:press@hesseflatow.com). For information about the artist, please contact [sales@hesseflatow.com](mailto:sales@hesseflatow.com).

Image: **Kirsten Deirup**, *Best Wishes*, 2023, oil on linen, 22 x 26 in (55.9 x 66 cm).