

BIG&SMALL/CASUAL GALLERY SHOWCASE

20 Jay St #M01, Brooklyn, NY11201

Gallery director: Kate Teale tel: (917) 847 8613 email:
info@bigandsmallcasual.net www.bigandsmallcasual.net

PRESS RELEASE. Sjoerd Doting: Days In A Life

Big & Small//Casual Gallery, was founded in Long Island City in 2009, and re-opens here, June 6, 2019 at 6pm, courtesy of the Two Trees Cultural Space Subsidy program.



Sjoerd Doting has painted the view from his studio window most days for six years. Using the window as compositional frame, the small (5"x7") paintings are effectively postcards from the days in his life. Uniform in format, but richly diverse individually, the paintings record light, time, seasons and spectacular events in a view that is three quarters sky, with an industrial base (a blood bank, a power station, the 59th St bridge).

I am reminded of John Berger's description of Fayum mummy portraits: *"They served a double pictorial function: they were identity pictures –like passport photos –for the dead on their journey ...; secondly and briefly, they served as mementoes of the departed for the bereaved family"*

These paintings also serve a double function. They are identity pictures of a keenly observed place, lived in over a period of thirty years, but they're also mementoes of the departed – not just of the fleeting light and changing weather, but also of the transforming city. Sjoerd will lose this view – not only to new buildings, but entirely: the studio building was just sold, and he and the thirty other artists must go. Most artists I know are facing similar loss of affordable studio

space. It should be noted that Sjoerd had a residency at the World Trade Center in 2001, where he made paintings of views that no longer exist.

Sjoerd was my upstairs studio neighbor for twenty years. With surprising symmetry, he was working on a wall of windows upstairs while I was working on a wall of windows right below him. There the similarities mostly end, but in showing this work on the gallery's 30ft long wall, it is both the thrill of that discovery and the unfolding pleasure of long looking that I want to re-create here.

In an age of self-promoters, Sjoerd is the opposite. For a painter as accomplished as he, he's too little known. He works constantly and exhibits rarely. Growing up in the Netherlands, he was inspired by painters such as Rembrandt, Hals, Vermeer and Ruysdael, and particularly the oil sketches of Constable.

For more information visit: <http://www.sjoerddoting.com>

In this new, smaller but more accessible 'showcase' format – the gallery continues to focus on under-represented artists doing great work. The gallery opens on DUMBO's June first Thursday, where all galleries in the area stay open late. It will be open Friday and Saturday June 7 & 8, 1-6 and afterwards, by appointment, through July and August.