

Robbie von Kampen

presents

Teleny
Diogo Gama

16 March – 6 April 2023, 12 Saint George Street, London W1S 2FB

Robbie von Kampen is pleased to present *Teleny*, a solo exhibition of works by Diogo Gama. Comprised of painting, drawing, and embroidery, the show takes its title from the 19th century homoerotic novel of the same name. Published anonymously in London in 1893, the novel has commonly been attributed to Oscar Wilde, though the author's identity, and the degree to which the novel documents true events, have never been definitely confirmed.

Gama first came into contact with *Teleny* at the age of 10 when he discovered a copy while exploring an abandoned house in his native Lisbon. Intrigued by the novel's subject matter, he hid the book for many years before reading it in full. Gama is still in possession of this copy, and an image of its interior cover accompanies this press release as a compliment to the artworks.

The works in *Teleny* are a synthesis of borrowed images, words and media. In *Before I forget, Teleny Sweats, Albeit Covertly, Elsewhere*, Gama utilized a towel purloined from SweatBox, a gay sauna located in London's Soho neighborhood, as a substrate for a suggestive and witty handshake image lifted from a Faux Real music video. *F for Fake* takes its title from the 1973 Orson Welles documentary that explores the lives of infamous art forgers and the nature of authorship and authenticity, while the image was sourced in a medieval religious text. Rendered against a black background, the figures appear as if they are emerging from a dream.

Like exhibition's namesake novel, the original authors of these images and words are obscured or forgotten. Devoid of their original context and intention these elements take on a new meaning through Gama's skillful remixing. The serious becomes playful, the real surreal, and the dream a reality.

Diogo Gama (b. 1998 Lisbon, Portugal) lives and works in London and is a graduate of Goldsmiths Masters of Fine Arts 2022.



F for Fake, 2020
Acrylic paint, pencil and paper on board
39in x 59in
100 X 150cm



Secret Location, 2020
Acrylic paint and paper on board
39in x 59in
100 X 150cm



Vanishing point, 2021
Embroidery on pleather
28in x 24in
71cm x 62cm



Before I forget, Teleny Sweats, Albeit Covertly, Elsewhere, 2023
Embroidery on found towel
21.5in x 53in
54cm x 135cm



Restless Workers Sleepy Heads, 2020
Pencil, pen and soft pastels on found board
96in x 48in
244cm x 122cm



The Smell of Blue, 2022
Embroidery on pleather
56in x 44in
142cm x 112cm



Untitled (Bunny Conference), 2021

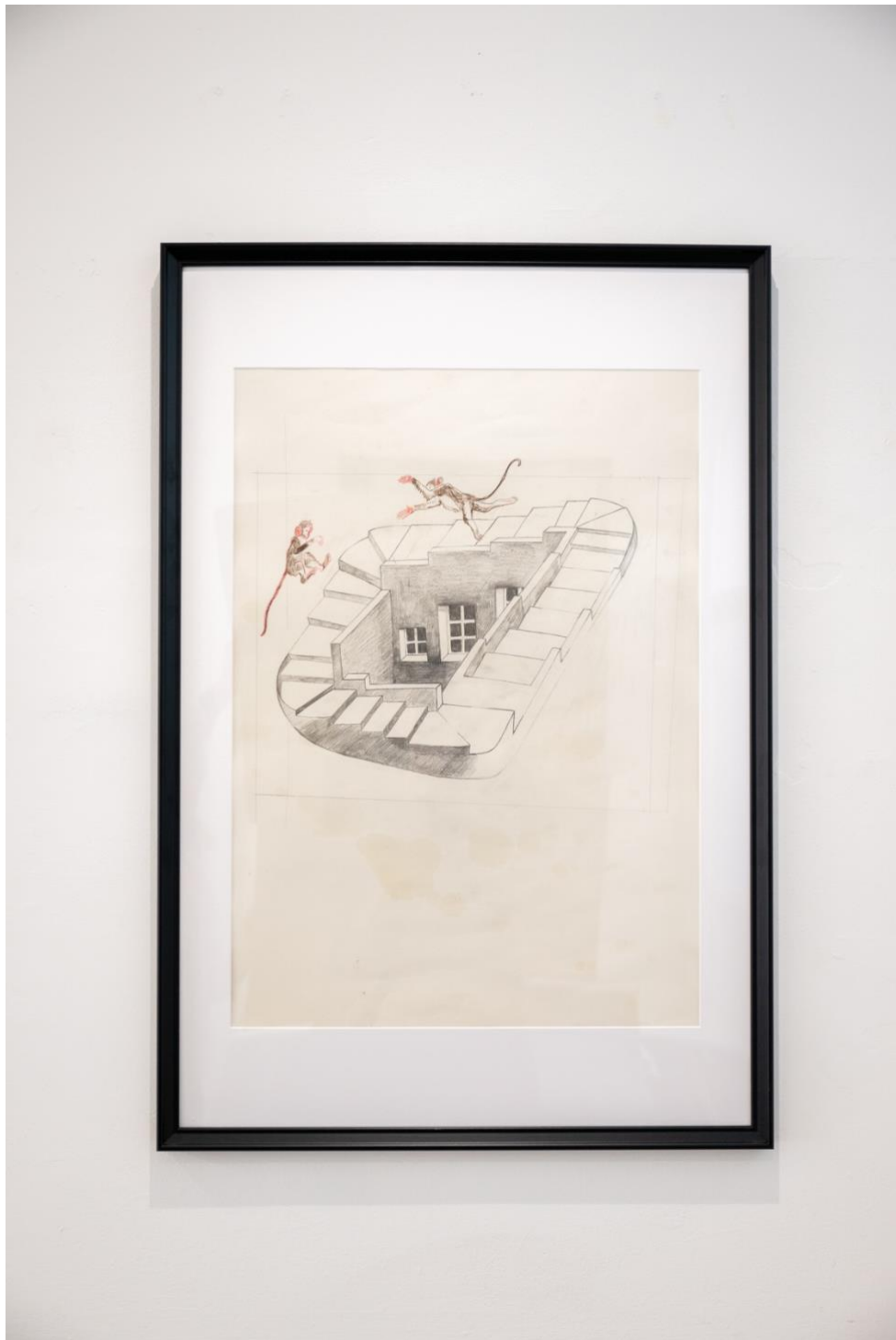
Oil on canvas

30in x 24in

76cm x 61cm



Write Me or Ride Me (after W.W. Denslow), 2020
Acrylic paint and paper on board
39in x 59in
100 X 150cm



Staircase in Loop (Drawing Exercise), 2021

Pencil on paper

26.5in x 23in

67in x 58in

Installation Images









