

Still Life Series

“Art is a lie that makes us realise truth”

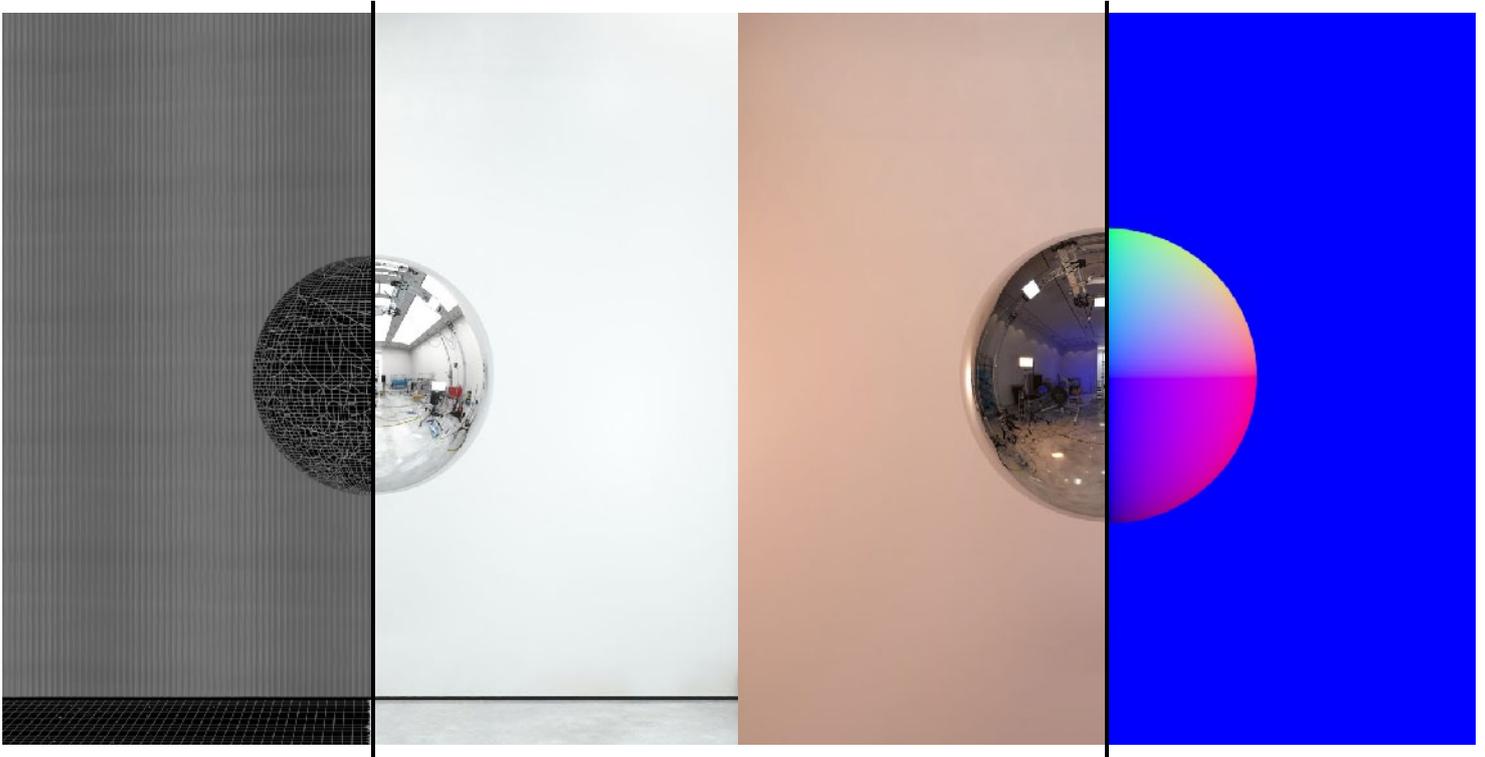
- Pablo Picasso



(Above) Still Life no. III - camera 19 "lighting and wireframe"

(Above Right) Still Life no. III - camera 19 "beauty pass"

The Still Life series are the first works that Pastel White released in 2020 as well as the first works that adhere to the Photography 5.1 manifesto (5.1.0). In these pieces Pastel White explores the notion of reality, its vulnerability to manipulation, its ability to deceive and ultimately, the possibility of its transformation into an altogether new reality.



(Above) Still Life no. III - wireframe and finished image
 (Above Right) Still Life no. II - finished image & normals

Looking into the reflective sphere we seem to have an understanding of what reality is, and recognise it as such. We accept this image as a photograph and therefore as evidence that an event took place.

At this point we may move on, possibly taking away no more than the image's aesthetic. However, intrinsic to our contemporary society, is the knowledge that images can and often are manipulated. So, can we trust our eyes or do we place a question mark on what we see? If we do, can we ever trust evidence again? What certainty can we place on anything deemed to be realistic?

These works put the viewer at the centre of these questions by digitally fabricating a new reality, in which, as if painting a picture, each element in the image has been skilfully created. Reflected in the sphere are cameras and lights as well as hundreds of other items that would be expected for such a photo to be produced. By dutifully depicting a realistic scene, Pastel White aims to highlight our susceptibility to deception. For, in truth, we have passed the point in history when we could easily discern digital manipulation.

It is at this point where these works present an invitation for the mind to take a small step into the digital realm, where digital realism becomes its own reality rather than leaving us contending with an inability to identify the difference between us and it.

“digital realism becomes its own reality [...] leaving us contending with an inability to identify the difference between us and it-”

In the distance, way over our current technical horizon, it is possible to imagine that human consciousness will inhabit these digital realms the same way in which we inhabit the physical world today; and, the consequences of questions like, “What is real?” or “what can be considered real?” will be felt in full. It is likely, then, that in these new worlds, the concept of fact and fiction may be lost forever.

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 Thank you.

