



**Lily van der Stokker**, *Twan Janssen*, 2001, wallpainting, object, 257 x 198 x 39 cm.

## Lily van der Stokker

Galerie van Gelder, **Amsterdam**

Art has many potential qualities, one of the most beautiful being generosity. The work of Lily van der Stokker communicates a full measure of it in its offering of pure joy and happiness—uncomplicated, undiluted. While one might become disappointed by the scepticism and fractious intellectualism in art, van der Stokker's solo show in Amsterdam, which consists of several wall drawings and a series of small works on paper, restores one's confidence. Even if one might enter a gallery with an unconsciously rational, critical approach, on leaving this space, one is relieved and freed from such preconceptions.

Round lines, fluid yet sure, draw lively shapes upon the walls and end in merry ornaments. Certain motifs even approach the appearance of doodles. The colours are bright and cheerful. Some words dance along pleasing patterns of dots and knots in an almost frothy manner. Others amble along the tops of pink, orange, blue, or green globular forms. Most of the written words are names. Not just any names, however; these are people that Van der Stokker cares about, people that are important for her life and career: friends, family, artist friends, their children, gallery owners, and curators all make an appearance. In one of the wall drawings, several names of quite important people in the art world are mentioned, concluded with the inscription: "People I know." The texts are also quite personal in another way. For example, a different work states (in Dutch): "I guess I should be buying a new pair of glasses at Amstelveen Road." One's first response might be embarrassment, in assuming that feelings of joy might not correspond to critical interpretation, or even as a reaction against the childish outlook of the works and the artist's public display of naivety. If one is receptive, however, and dares to leave presumptions behind, one might be as pure and open-minded towards them as they are. It takes guts to be honest, to believe in art for real. Art can indeed be fun, make you feel better, and make the world a better place, provided that integrity and generosity lay the foundation of the exchange.

**Jellichje Reijnders**