

Carlos Alfonso

Before love or something else - invited by Thomas Caron
21 May – 09 July 2016

INT. ROOM - NOON

Warm enough to carry sweats, banana yellow canary walls, at the front CHARACTER A (no specific age), charming, blind dating CHARACTER B (no specific age), sexy. Accidental encounter, A is nervous and anxious. B is acting like nothing happens but is still paying attention to any of A's movements.

A I've been waiting for you.

B Waiting for me?
Trembles and shakes.

A Yes.
With a big smile from ear to ear.

B Jiggles.
A couple is passing by, both with happy faces and staring at A and B through the window, the atmosphere is serene and tense at the same time.

A While he looks to the eyes of B, he puts his shoes on and slowly tries to move closer to B. B is thrilled and totally absorbed in A. In a tactical drive, A leans forward and swings towards B, A is confident.

B Is excited and fervent, waiting the unexpected, B likes surprises. The couple is both spectator and witness of the whole scene.

Before love or something else – text Thomas Caron

It's not entirely clear what we're looking at, but it has something to do with an encounter. Two characters meet, perhaps for the first time, in a setting that can only be called domestic. Perhaps it's better described as a cartoonish variation of a domestic setting: yellow walls and a brightly coloured rug with a monochrome abstract landscape on the wall. It feels like a set; a space within a space. The spatial reality of the shop window, its typological staging and the absurd encounter that takes place in that space contribute to the idea that we are looking at one isolated frame in a comic strip. We see a snapshot from a wider narrative; a scene in which something major is about to happen for the two characters involved. What is about to happen is not entirely clear. Perhaps that's not so important. It's all about the suspended momentum; a moment in time when something important is about to happen - before it happens. The promise of love or something else.

Before love or something else is part of a series of similar assemblages in which furniture is given anthropomorphic properties by positioning it towards each other in a different manner so an encounter is created between various characters.

Within his artistic endeavours, Carlos Alfonso is looking for dialogue. Fiction, narrative and humour are important elements in that dialogue. In his quest, Alfonso is not guided by a specific medium. The form it is presented in depends on the context. He creates photos and videos, performances, drawings and sculpture. His work always has a strong relationship with drawing, as a way to think, observe and arrange reality. Regardless of the medium he uses, he brings elements together that create a vague sketch of a narrative, an outlining of a story, that gives direction while leaving enough room to keep the interpretation of the situation open.

Carlos Alfonso (b. 1986 in Popayán, Colombia) lives and works in Ghent. He studied in Bogotá and LUCA in Brussels. His work was presented in SKETCH, Bogotá; Flat Stichting Bijlmer, Amsterdam; Agora, Berlin; Komplot, Brussels; SITIO ArtBo, Bogotá; Gallery Santa Fe, Bogotá; and Marres, Maastricht.

Thomas Caron recently established artlead.net – a website that aims to help a wide audience to discover and purchase art. Before that he was a curator in S.M.A.K., Ghent.