



Like Home
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In our home town of Berlin, **Catherine Marshall** visits an exhibition that explores notions of place and home through the work of different artists:

In a grand corner apartment block in Berlin's Mitte near Friedrichstraße, eleven artists with a connection to South America and Berlin have set up temporary home, or 'Like Home' as the exhibition is titled. It is organised by the project Loop Raum, and the focus of the work is on abstraction, patterning, repetition and colour. Visiting it transported me back to the time of abundant unrenovated spaces in Berlin, where you might come across pop-up exhibitions in unusual places and have the pleasure of discovering the unexpected. Stepping into the the first-floor apartment where the exhibition is held, the space exudes the former grandeur of its *Grunderzeit* architecture with its high ceilings, intricate stucco and beautiful parquet flooring. At the same time, the rooms are damp and cold in places, the corridors are quite spooky and maze-like and plaster lies exposed with remnants of wallpaper from bygone years. We start to explore.



CARLA GUAGLIARDI / "O LUGAR DO AR" (THE PLACE OF AIR)

In the first room, we see a delicate kinetic sculpture of iron rods supported by

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shape. It's material and formal abstraction is incongruous to the historicist style of the room, yet it reinvents it. It is not solid and fixed, yet it has a strong presence. When we endeavour to make a new city feel like home, we wish to carve out a space for ourselves, both physically and mentally. Due to economic necessity, a transient way of life can also become a permanent state.

We turn the corner down a long corridor where a small drawing by Columbian artist Carlos Silva from his 'Mazy Drawing' series hangs. Its overlapping squares of blue ink appear to have been made with a scraping technique. The wall it hangs on carries its own marks: Swathes of white filler on plywood and torn wallpaper edges. The work draws attention to the layers of workmanship and materials of the flat itself. In this show, many of the artworks resonate with the apartment itself, its ghosts and history, making us question who might have lived here. It reminds us also that home is never static, is not just located in place but also in time.



CARLOS SILVA / "MAZY DRAWING II"

Leaving the corridor, Chilean artist Gonzalo Reyes Araos' grid-like "RGB Painting" revels in glitches that might appear on a computer screen, except that this is reproduced here meticulously in paint. It's as if the romantic landscape genre of the eighteenth century practiced by artists such as Caneletto has been updated. Instead of architectural ruins we have crumbling technology. Have we passed the threshold where our home screens feel more like home than our actual home?

Other works in the show play with optical illusion, geometric forms and seem to want to reach beyond the boundaries possible between four walls or even within the limits of their own frames. Carla Bertone's colourful painting 'Turgoxid' looks as if origami paper has been folded and refolded in a quest to reach the limits imposed by the square, if there are any. Maria Muroz's "Lemniscata" is a play on the mathematical symbol of an infinity loop. Close up, however the progression of colour through the figure of eight is not so straightforward. New angles and colours become apparent, questioning our own logic.

When you move city or country or live between places then perhaps there is 'no place like home'. Instead it is something better, a plurality of homes,

Kansas' origin. We prefer the uncertainty of Oz, and its new possibilities. In 'Like Home' I felt these artists might enjoy that notion too.

The exhibition 'Like Home' has been extended to July 21 and has been expanded to include an additional fifteen more artists. It can be seen at GLINT, Glinkastraße 17, 10117. The show was originally paired with another project called 'No Place' with the joint title 'No place/ Like Home'

Art

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