Christina Calbari – Unveiled

15 March – 28 April 2018

*Unveiled* is the second exhibition by Christina Calbari (born 1975 in Athens)

at the Galerie Françoise Heitsch. The depicted individuals are again female

and live in the 1950s or earlier. Jean Genet's The Maids was the inspiration

behind these images. It is possible to literally feel the weakened

self-confidence of the depicted individuals, which unfolds like a breeding

ground for gloom and depression. The struggle between the past and the

present is also palpable. The knowledge that one is seen only, if the social

status is highly prestigious; that escaping lower social backgrounds is

virtually impossible. The actions and facial features of the depicted females

reveal a projection onto the seemingly unreachable opposite, and eventual

self-destruction.

Christina Calbari employs a smooth and dark painting style. The colours,

mainly brown and grey, express a lasting melancholia in a virtuous manner.

Her girls transfer us back at a time when women were controlled in Europe

too. In fact, nearly eighty years ago only very few women could determine

their own destiny. Christina Calbari is interested, first and foremost, in the

girls, who had no voice; or, only when they broke free from their constraints

while the media would eventually finish them off. Her works remind us that

women rights are nothing but hard-earned.

*Unveiled* represents the bare and uncovered, the moment of making visible,

above anything else. Christina Calbari uses it as an indicator for everything

that is wrong and as a metaphor for what has to be unveiled. Her girls stand

for past and present injustices. Just like Jean Genet stood for the suppressed

and the weak, the word unveiled serves Calbari as a warning, as a challenge

to confront any such events and to get angry. Christina Calbari lives in Athens

after all, and has to bear witness to the crisis’s effects on a daily basis.