

# DIRIMART

## KARIN KNEFFEL'S EXHIBITION TITLED *A HOUSE IN HAMPSTEAD* AT DIRIMART LONDON

### **A House in Hampstead**

**Karin Kneffel**

**Opening:** 9 October 2025

**Venue:** Dirimart London

This exhibition can be visited from 9 October to 15 November (Mondays by appointment; Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm)

**LONDON, 4 October 2025** – Dirimart is pleased to present *A House in Hampstead*, a solo exhibition by renowned German artist Karin Kneffel, opening on 9 October 2025 at Dirimart London.

The exhibition unveils a new body of work inspired by the **Isokon Flats**, a modernist architectural landmark in Hampstead and a rare British example of Bauhaus design. Designed by architect Wells Coates for Jack and Molly Pritchard, the Isokon was conceived as a radical model for urban living. Its architectural intrigue became a magnet for some of the most influential thinkers and makers of the 20th century, including **Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer, László Moholy-Nagy, Agatha Christie, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth**.

Through the lens of Kneffel's distinctive visual language, *A House in Hampstead* reimagines the building's fragmented past, discernible only through undated scenes rendered in large-scale oils on canvas. Her hyperrealist, illusory compositions offer a photographic gaze into the building's history and famous visitors, juxtaposing archival fragments, with her own signature figures and gestures. Kneffel deliberately chooses compositions that encourage contemplation on how cultural and political histories are perceived, focusing particularly on overlooked narratives of pioneering women. Kneffel's exhibitions often explore iconic architectural spaces, using them as frameworks through which to transcend realism. In this exhibition, she employs fabricated memories – depicted with symbolic objects and ghostly figures – to establish pseudo-connections between place, time and perception.

Alongside these works, the exhibition features a new series of monumental still-life compositions, including large-scale grapes and tulips. These continue Kneffel's long-standing interrogation of the decorative in art, a deliberate artistic choice that challenges the traditional exclusion of such subject matter by academic strictures.

In addition to these grand still-lives, a selection of photographic works highlights the artist's playful engagement with the concept of reality. These pieces demonstrate her joyful exploration of illusion and perception creating a sense of intrigue and wonder.



press@dirimart.com  
dirimart.com

DIRIMART DOLAPDERE  
Irmak Caddesi 1-9  
34440 Dolapdere İstanbul  
+90 212 232 66 66

DIRIMART PERA  
Meşrutiyet Caddesi 99  
34430 Beyoğlu İstanbul

DIRIMART LONDON  
23 Princes Street  
Mayfair London  
W1B 2LY

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Completing the exhibition are a selection of watercolour-on-screenprints. These works serve as a bridge to Kneffel's past artistic journeys, allowing for a nuanced reinterpretation of themes and motifs that have resonated throughout her career.

Together, these diverse works offer a comprehensive view of Kneffel's multifaceted approach, showcasing her technical prowess, intellectual curiosity, and an unwavering commitment to pushing artistic boundaries.

*A House in Hampstead* will be on view from 9 October to 15 November 2025 at Dirimart London.

**Karin Kneffel** (b. 1957, Marl) studied at the Staatliche Kunstakademie Düsseldorf between 1981 and 1987. She currently teaches at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste München. Among her recent solo and group exhibitions are *STILL*, Kunsthalle Bremen, Bremen & Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden (2019); *Haymatlos*, Dirimart, Istanbul (2020); *Ein Gruß aus der Küche*, Schloss Detmold, Lippische Gesellschaft für Kunst (2022); *Intervention to the Collection*, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart (2022); *Im Bild*, Franz Marc Museum, Kochel am See (2022); *Face of a Woman, Head of a Child*, Museum Kurhaus Kleve (2023) same exhibition toured Franz Gertsch Museum, Burgdorf (2024) and *Come in, Look out*, Museum Küppersmühle (2024). Karin Kneffel lives and works in Düsseldorf.