

Dike Blair

The Modern Institute, Osborne Street
16 November 2019 – 22 February 2020
Preview Friday 15 November 7-9pm

For his first solo exhibition at The Modern Institute, New York-based artist Dike Blair presents a new body of oil-paintings originating from his own photographic observations. Known for his photorealistic paintings and drawings, that although absent of human form, offer moments imparted with tangible physical presence. As if fragments of memory, Blair depicts the residue of familiar actions and habits - Styrofoam cups of coffee cooling, luridly coloured cocktails lit by a harsh flash or corners of non-descript paintings one would find decorating a diner. With no defined beginning, middle or end, these transient glimpses allude to a larger narrative we can choose to imagine.

Blair's scenes either lit by artificial flash, isolating the arrangements from its surroundings, or depicted in natural light, fragments of blue skies and light bouncing off slick tiles and table tops are arguably defined by the role light plays in them. The glare, sheen and reflection of his lens is expertly translated, the painterly rendering of his surfaces enhancing the lucidity of his observations - one can almost smell the smoke escaping an extinguished cigarette and feel the drops of condensation sliding down a chilled glass of beer.

Indeed, there is strength in the familiarity and consistency of Blair's oeuvre, returning to similar subjects time and again, he reactivates moments as if scrutinising the faithfulness of his own recollection.

Notes to Editors

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Dike Blair (b. 1952 New Castle, Pennsylvania; Lives and works in New York). Blair attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1977) and the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program (1976).

Selected exhibitions include Karma, New York (solo, 2018); MoCA, Los Angeles (group, 2018); Secession, Vienna (solo, 2016); Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (group, 2014); Linn Lühn, Düsseldorf, Germany (solo, 2014); Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina (solo, 2009), amongst others.

A new publication of Blair's drawings has recently been published by Karma, New York.