

Focus: Fabien Mérelle

27 May – 28 June, 2020

Taking inspiration from Chinese ink painting, Mérelle creates drawings that reflect his innermost imagination. The work of a master draughtsman, each piece is delicately detailed using Chinese brush techniques to a surgical degree of precision, borrowing elements from this teaching whilst translating each into the artist's own Western vernacular. Not shying away from the allowance for blank space, the visual insertions at times float and other times spread more widely across the page. A series of juxtapositions, each work melds anatomical accuracy with fantastical realism, a duality that creates a running paradox: at first glance his drawings appear true to reality, yet, upon closer inspection, the viewer discovers a dreamlike realm, one akin yet removed from actuality. Indeed, Mérelle's characters are at the mercy of whatever he has in store for them, the state of their uncertain fates heightened by the blank space surrounding them.