



粉刷匠 *The House Painter* (局部 | Detail), 2023. 布面丙烯与油画 | Acrylic and oil on canvas. 274.3 x 182.9 cm. 图片提供: 艺术家与贝浩登 | Courtesy of the artist and Perrotin

亨利·甘德森

粉刷匠

开幕: 2023 年 11 月 8 日 (周三)
2023 年 11 月 8 日至 12 月 23 日

在最近的一次旅行中,一位海关官员问亨利他是做什么工作的。亨利说:“我是个画家。”“像个粉刷匠那样吗?”——嗯,算是吧。

作品《粉刷匠》中,主人公站在沾满了油漆的梯子上,将刷子伸向画布的顶端。他是亨利,又不是亨利。为准备绘画的劳动——绷紧画布、给它涂底色——在艺术家关于房屋立面的主题绘画中被戏剧性地表现出来。亨利·甘德森完成了十幅“房屋绘画”,但《粉刷匠》打破了这个系列的惯例:用错视画法勾勒的人物在展览中创造了一个元时刻,画面被放大至一座房屋的外立面大小,观众看到一名粉刷匠正在涂抹房子的形状,没有上色的画布裸露了出来。临时工变成艺术家,仿佛两者是可以彼此切换的。

《蓝皮牌 VP100》则描绘了一座覆盖着美国亨利蓝皮牌防水布的拟人化建筑,窗户取代了鼻子的位置,让我们可以瞥见房屋的内部,而墙面上蓝色的眼睛则凝视着观众。建筑商往往在建造中使用亨利牌产品以保护建筑的表面。这种装修用材密封性良好,防水防湿,不受天气影响。它的表面是蓝色的,点缀着白色的丝网印刷标识。巨大的房

HENRY GUNDERSON

The House Painter

Opening Wednesday November 8, 2023
November 8 — December 23, 2023

On a recent trip, a customs officer asked Henry what he does for a living. He said, “Painter.” “Like a house painter?” Well, sort of.

In *The House Painter*, a man atop a paint splattered ladder reaches his brush to the top of the canvas. He's Henry and he's not Henry. The labor that goes into preparing a surface for painting—stretching the canvas taught and priming white with gesso—is dramatized in the subject painting a house facade. Gunderson completed ten house paintings, but *The House Painter* breaks from the conventions of the series. The figure rendered Trompe-l'oeil allows for a meta moment in the exhibition where we zoom out beyond the facade and see the house painter, painting in the shape of a house, we see the raw canvas exposed. Day laborer becomes fine artist, the two are interchangeable.

Blueskin VP100 depicts a house or shed under construction covered in Henry brand vapor barrier, a window in place of a nose gives a glimpse into the raw interior, while the blue eyes stare out at the viewer. In construction, builders use Henry brand products to make surfaces air tight, water tight, and weather tight to give protection against the



彩绘鸟屋 *Painted Bird House*, 2022. 布面丙烯与油画 | Acrylic and oil on canvas. 274.3 x 182.9 cm
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子形状的头部的感觉就像裹着能被剥落的皮肤, 保护着一层隐藏在皮下的共性。

几年前, 当甘德森搬到布鲁克林红钩区时, 他租住的房子年久失修, 房东答应他六个月不收租金, 让他把房子修好。我记得他有条不紊地改造着这所位于城市街区的小房子, 就像船长住在他的宿舍里, 只保留一个宽敞的画室。他开始拆除天花板, 铺设地板, 而与此同时, 街区的其他房屋也在经历密集的人工修缮, 房地产商改造投机性的豪华住宅, 希望将曾经是码头工人聚居点的破旧住所转手倒卖。在这个被视为家的工作室里, 亨利·甘德森最终在没有任何人帮助的情况下独自“画”完了他自己的房屋。

搬家后, 艺术家身处的新环境开始出现在他的画中。一只巨大的北美红雀, 口中衔着一条滚圆的虫子, 带着好奇而夸张的眼神向外睥睨, 就像通过窥视孔的镜头探察周遭。为了画出斑斓的色调, 甘德森做了一个大刷子来描摹红雀的羽毛。虽然知道这只大红雀就住在它身后的木屋里, 但当我们遇到其他作品, 比如《蓝星住宅》时, 孩子可能会提问: “又是谁住在这里呢?” 这所房子的门前放着一双长靴子, 窗沿搭着蓝绿相间的袜子, 好像在泥里踩了很长一段时间以后被吹干了。“房子的主人会是地球母亲本人吗?” 人们可能会问自己, 同时还会注意到一面悬在门顶的棱镜所折射而出的彩虹笼罩在房屋的周围——还是说, 这是一间鬼屋, 有鬼魂在此栖息?

甘德森为此次展览选择了七张“房屋绘画”, 将孤独的感觉浓缩到无人居住的建筑中。没有人愿意谈论肆虐全球的大规模流行病, 但我们生活的空间的确因此发生了变化: 我们精神和物理的细枝末节都被瞬时放大。如果你想知道房屋的形状在心理学上是否具有意义, 那么答案是肯定的。在幼儿心理学领域, 学龄前儿童在过去一百年以来曾一直被要求参与一种叫作“房子-人-树”的心理测试, 以评估他们的心理健康状况。甘德森画作中的房子不属于任何家庭, 而是一个人



蓝星住宅 *Blue Earth Dwelling*, 2022. 布面丙烯与油画 | Acrylic and oil on canvas. 274.3 x 182.9 cm
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elements. Blue on the surface, freckled with white screen printed logos, the giant house-shaped head feels like flayed skin, protecting a subcutaneous layer of commonality.

When Gunderson moved to Red Hook, Brooklyn a few years ago, his home was in such disrepair that the landlord offered him six months of free rent to fix it up. I remember him methodically remodeling the small house on a city block so that he could live like a ship's captain in his domestic quarters with a single large studio room. He set himself to removing ceilings and laying floors, all while other houses on the block were being gentrified by huge crews building speculative luxury housing in hopes of flipping property that had once been flop houses for longshoremen. Inside this home studio, Henry Gunderson eventually made his *House* paintings, without any assistance.

After the move, his new surroundings found themselves in the paintings. The large cardinal with a healthy worm in its beak leans in at you with an exaggerated inquisitive leer, distorted as if through the lens of a peephole in a door in *Painted Bird House*. To paint the wildly colorful brush strokes, Gunderson built a large brush so he could work in the scale of the cardinal. While we know the big red bird lives in that house, when encountering other works, for example *Blue Earth Dwelling*, a child might ask, “Who lives here?” A pair of long boots with wet green and blue socks dry after a long stomp in the mud. “Could the occupant be Mother Earth herself?” one might ask themselves while noticing the prism refracting atmospheric rainbow around the facade. Or does the interior suggests a haunted house, do spirits live here?

For this exhibition, Gunderson paints seven house-shaped canvases, distilling the feelings of isolation into unpopulated facades. Nobody wants to talk about the pandemic, but something happened to our living spaces: we became momentarily atomized. If you are wondering if the house shape feels inherently psychological, it is. Preschool children have been asked to take the “House-Person-Tree test,” to evaluate their mental health for the last

独居的处所。从梭罗在瓦尔登湖的小屋，到杰克·伦敦创作《白牙》时的隐居处，甚至是连环炸弹袭击杀手泰德·卡钦斯基的窝藏点，它们都诉说着美国人的孤独。而这些关于房屋的绘画仿佛是“未完成”的，又好像是呈现在一起才能被视为绘画而产生意义。

撰文：Joey Frank

关于艺术家

亨利·甘德森 1990 年生于美国旧金山，目前工作生活于美国纽约。他在旧金山艺术学院获得艺术学士学位。甘德森曾在 247365 (纽约)、Loyal (斯德哥尔摩)、Water McBeer (纽约)、Ever Gold (旧金山)、Carl Kostyal (伦敦)、Castiglioni (米兰)、Derek Eller (纽约) 等地举办个展，并曾多次参加美国以及国外的展览。

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hundred years. Here, rather than a place where a family lives, Gunderson's paintings feel single occupancy. They represent American loneness, from Thoreau's cabin on Walden Pond to the cabin where Jack London wrote *White Fang* or even Ted Kaczynski's shack. These house paintings are "Unapaintings" as much as they are a group of paintings.

Text by Joey Frank

About the artist

Henry Gunderson was born in 1990 in San Francisco, US, now lives and works in New York, US. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Gunderson received his BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Gunderson has had solo exhibitions at 247365 (New York), Loyal (Stockholm), Water McBeer (New York), Ever Gold (San Francisco), Carl Kostyal (London), Castiglioni (Milan), Derek Eller (New York) and has been included in numerous exhibitions in the US and abroad.

[More information about the artist >>>](#)