

Lewis Miller
A Doll's Room
The Modern Institute, Osborne Street
7th November 2025 – 14th January 2026
Preview: Thursday 6th November 2025, 6 – 8pm

In the routine spaces still life normally explores, habit makes one see through a glass, darkly; but when the object is revealed face to face, the departure from the habitual blurs and entropies of vision can be so drastic that the objects seem unreal, unfamiliar, un-creatural.

- Norman Bryson, *Looking at the Overlooked* (1990)

Lewis Miller's *A Doll's Room* comprises a group of oil paintings and a series of painted and framed glass panes displayed on plinths. The title points to Miller's interest in the simulation of reality played out within doll's houses and still life painting. Both are models of domestic and interior life – containers for ideals that blur the boundary between reality and fiction. Pictures within pictures or plays within plays, they echo the material reality of their own surroundings as well as societal conventions and aspirations more broadly. Throughout the exhibition, the act of painting draws the life-sized and the minute together on canvas, pushing the real into a fictive realm, and allowing miniaturised spaces to be articulated more concretely at scale.

Miller's concern with the everyday and *mise en scène* is manifested in the quietude of his composed interiors; they are emptied of figures yet invoke their presence, allowing the viewer to focus on the objects which occupy his rooms – their strange and evocative surfaces. In the absence of actors, fabrics come to play a central role: the heavy folds of a velvet curtain, an iridescent flash of coat lining, the twisted tissue of bed linen. In *Double Figure Night*, 2025, and *Fabric*, 2025, dark cyan and chartreuse grids give way to bright triangular creases and folds. In each, the contours of the depicted surface converge with the light they appear to reflect, bringing about an oblique hybrid image.

The play of scale continues in Miller's glass works which again evoke the close quarters of the doll's house. Across their panes, interior and domestic fragments coalesce or otherwise collide with abstract patterns, drips and fields of colour. Light passes through them via open ended apertures, rendering the layers partially visible, partially obscured. Each one distorts and effects the next and the collective image shifts in response to the viewer's orientation and the lighting of the surrounding environment. While these assemblages embody a more spontaneous approach to painting than the works on canvas, they share a concern with imaginary space – its potential to shift one's perception of reality.

Lewis Miller (b. 1992, Glasgow) lives and works in Berlin. Miller works intuitively, restaging and reimagining excerpts from life in his paintings. Themes of romance and separation, hope and fear collide in his works. Selected solo exhibitions include: 'Blue Sleeper', Zyrland Zoiropa, Berlin (2023); 'Curtains', The Modern Institute, Bricks Space (2022); 'Saxophone Ads', Sangt Hipolyt, Berlin (2021); 'Rules of Intimacy', Sangt Hipolyt, Berlin (2020); 'Draught', BBBerlin, Berlin (2019). Selected group exhibitions include: 'Living as', Loggia, Munich (2020); 'In to through out', Spoiler, Berlin (2020); 'Licked', Kate Sansom, Berlin (2019).

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| 1 <i>Composite 5</i> , 2025 Oil and glass paints on glass, oiled MDF 161.2 x 31.2 x 31.2 cm 63 1/2 x 12 1/4 x 12 1/4 in | 2 <i>Studio with jackets</i> , 2025 Oil on canvas 225 x 270 x 4.5 cm 88 5/8 x 106 1/4 in | 3 <i>Composite 6</i> , 2025 Oil and glass paints on glass, oiled MDF 161.2 x 31.2 x 31.2 cm 63 1/2 x 12 1/4 x 12 1/4 in |
| 4 <i>Double Figure Night</i> , 2025 Oil on canvas 205 x 110 x 4.5 cm 80 3/4 x 43 1/4 x 1 3/4 in | 5 <i>Composite 2</i> , 2025 Oil and glass paints on glass, oiled MDF 156.2 x 21.2 x 21.2 cm 61 1/2 x 8 3/8 x 8 3/8 in | 6 <i>Wings</i> , 2025 Oil on canvas 225 x 270 x 4.5 cm 88 5/8 x 106 1/4 x 1 3/4 in |
| 7 <i>Fabric</i> , 2025 Oil on canvas 205 x 110 x 4.5 cm 80 3/4 x 43 1/4 x 1 3/4 in | 8 <i>Composite 3</i> , 2025 Oil, Flashe and glass paints on glass, oiled MDF 158.1 x 31.2 x 25 cm 62 1/4 x 12 1/4 x 9 7/8 in | 9 <i>A doll's table</i> , 2025 Oil on canvas 165 x 165 x 4 cm 65 x 65 x 1 5/8 in |
| 10 <i>Composite 1</i> , 2025 Oil, Flashe and glass paints on glass, oiled MDF 156.2 x 21.2 x 21.2 cm 61 1/2 x 8 3/8 x 8 3/8 in | 11 <i>A doll's bed</i> , 2025 Oil on canvas 165 x 165 x 4 cm 65 x 65 x 1 5/8 in | 12 <i>Composite 4</i> , 2025 Oil, Flashe and glass paints on glass, oiled MDF 161.2 x 25 x 25 cm 63 1/2 x 9 7/8 x 9 7/8 in |