

Garrison Art Center

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For immediate release:

PAINTINGS

Eric Erickson March 21- May 3, 2020

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 21, 5-7PM

Contact: gallery@garrisonartcenter.org



Sleep, Oil on Canvas

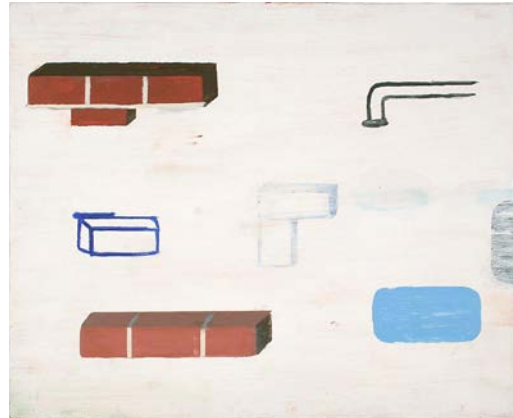


Diagram 5, Oil on Canvas

Garrison Art Center is pleased to announce *PAINTINGS*, a solo exhibition of oil paintings on canvas by Eric Erickson. This is Erickson's second solo exhibition in the Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center. The exhibition will be on view from March 21 - May 3, with an opening reception on Saturday, March 21, from 5-7pm.

PAINTINGS is a collection of works that depict uncertain terrain where spacial relationships are constantly shifting and objects are in a state of suspended animation. Pedestrian in nature and presented as diagrams, these assorted objects, all fragmented, their identities diminished through abrupt truncation, inhabit a world where nothing is required to make sense. These seemingly simple forms come and go, entering right, exiting top, or breathing through the surface barely perceptible, like ghosts, embedded in multiple layers of scumbled paint that leave visible traces of what lies beneath—an assertive use of pentimento. Exactly what are these objects intended for and what is their relationship to one another? Pipes, faucets, bricks, wooden planks, 3-dimensional geometric forms and sections of wooden footboards can all be part of something useful and practical in our daily lives, when actually connected to something, but in Erickson's hands they float in a kind of limbo. Humor and pathos operating side by side. Time stands still for the faucet, and function is never a consideration.

Erickson was inspired a few years ago by a set of instructions he was following for assembling a piece of equipment. The instructions were sorely lacking in clarity, and

visuals did not match up to written instructions. Why not, he thought, create a world of diagrams free from the obligation of utilitarian function. Just let them be. Subsequently, diagrams have preoccupied him for nearly 10 years, along with brick walls and bedsteads. But the mysterious diagrammatic elements and domestic subjects are only part of the story. The surfaces of Erickson's paintings reflect his singular approach and devotion to a process of painting that extends out over time, in many cases over the span of a year or more for a single work. Scraping, layering, modifying the composition; Erickson engages in a full bore, deep interaction with the painting until he finally makes peace with it, finds stasis...no instructions needed. This method of working over time creates a bond between him and his work and inevitably reveals an ironic emotional connection to the mundane objects he has chosen as his subjects. Rather than subjugate them, Erickson elevates them as part of the process of following the painting, listening to the painting and arriving at something whole.

Eric Erickson has exhibited throughout the United States and is in many collections including The Museum of Modern Art NYC, Department of Prints and the Smithsonian Institution, Robert Blackburn Print Collection. He is the recipient of numerous awards including a two time winner of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation award, the Edward Albee Foundation award and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has a MFA from the University of California, Davis and a BFA from Miami University, Ohio.

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center are open Tuesday through Sunday 10am to 5pm. For more information about exhibitions and other programs please visit our website www.garrisonartcenter.org or call 845.424.3960

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For all press inquiries and high-resolution images contact Barbara Smith Gioia at galler@garrisonartcenter.org