

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Twee Brutalism: In Situ brings together paintings, drawings and mixed media works on paper that consider the use of aesthetic and cultural touchstones in the marketplace of urban redevelopment, lifestyle branding, luxury goods and cultural production itself. With bold colors and what the artist describes as “disjointed horizons, incised images, and improbably organized topographies”, Matthew Mann’s positions as an artist and a citizen are visually, intuitively, and delightfully stated.

In this solo show at WAS gallery, one finds an eclectic array of subjects and references that reflect Mann's preoccupations as an artist. Brutalist architecture, 19th century wallpaper, minimalist artworks, commercial photography and punk ephemera are all deployed here, with their uses and intent humorously undermined. By reframing these subjects as appliances, decorations, toys, and confections, Mann not only questions the value society places on aesthetic objects and spaces but also explores the role of art within retail and lifestyle marketing contexts. While the narratives that unfold in Mann’s paintings are open and non-linear, what the artist infers in his work is notably unambiguous.

Matthew Mann is a painter based in Washington DC. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Mann received his MFA from American University in 2002. He has been profiled and reviewed in a number of publications including the Washington Post, Hyperallergic, Creators Project and Bmore Art. He has

been awarded grants from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities as well as the Creative Communities Fund. Mann has also participated in the Joya: Arte y Ecologia artist residency in Almeria Spain and been a visiting artist at George Washington University, Maryland Institute College of Art and Design, American University and the Luce Foundation Center at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Recent exhibitions include Luxury Trouble at Studio 1469 in Washington DC (2017); Strange Landscapes at Arlington Arts Center Arlington, VA (2016); Shape Play at Tiger Strikes Asteroid in Philadelphia, PA (2015); Associative Fugue at Project 4 Gallery in Washington DC (2014); and Salon of Little Deaths at Hamiltonian Gallery in Washington, DC (2013).