

Ben Murray
In Life Review

February 10-April 1, 2017

Opening reception:
Friday, February 10, 5-7pm



EXT/INT. DRIVING - ROOM - NIGHT, 2015-2016

A "life review" is a phenomenon widely reported as occurring during near-death experiences, in which a person rapidly sees much or the totality of their life history in chronological sequence and in extreme detail. For his second solo show at moniquemeloche, Ben Murray continues his investigation into the aesthetics of memory with new paintings that explore this mortal notion using a cinematic lens, as if life itself were a screenplay to be viewed before the final frame.

Multi-layered, semi-representational paintings of recollected places and events, the works on view comprise the moments that shape a lifetime, mundane or otherwise. Void of characters or dialogue, these compositions are constructed in a durational framework, simultaneously conveying the multiple frames of lived experience in reverse. Images appear, dissolve and become filters for one another; light is shifting and transitional; time is elongated and compressed. Here, Murray performs the role of the projectionist, transforming all semblances of the everyday into mere apparitions on the painterly screen.

Ben Murray (b. 1977, Merrillville, IN; lives and works Chicago) received his MFA from the University of Illinois, Chicago in 2013 and his BFA from the Herron School of Art, Indianapolis in 2011. He was a 2014 Artist in Residence at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, Nebraska and a 2012 MFA Resident at Ox-Bow in Saugatuck, Michigan. After this MFA thesis show at UIC in 2013, Murray was in the group exhibitions *Recent Paintings* at Northwestern University, Kaplan A.I.R Exhibitions, curated by John Neff and *Revisiting Undomesticated* at Design Cloud, Chicago. In 2014, Murray had his first solo show at moniquemeloche, followed by the important group exhibition *Ground Floor* at Hyde Park Art Center—a juried exhibition of the best recent MFA graduates from Chicago's top art schools. In 2015, moniquemeloche presented his work at The Armory Show, New York. Recent group exhibitions include *New American Paintings: Midwest Edition* at Elmhurst Art Museum and *#BemisPainters: 1985-2015* at Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, both 2015. Murray currently teaches at Illinois State University.

on the wall

Andy Coolquitt

Economy Bottom

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Economy Bottom, 2017, Installation view

For his first project with moniquemeloche and his first gallery show in Chicago, Andy Coolquitt will present a site-specific installation arising out of his ongoing investigation into object-hood, classification, and the archive. A varied and disorienting assortment of objects transported from the artist's studio – autonomous items reconfigured as a whole - will fill the storefront exhibition space in a *mise-en-scène* of ordered chaos. Illuminated solely by a small number of hanging lamp works, the uncanny tableau will suggest a liminal locale where display and storage, object and group, are confused. These oppositions will be further activated by the viewership made possible by *on the wall's* unique engagement with the community surrounding the gallery.

Andy Coolquitt (b. 1964, Mesquite, TX; lives and works Austin, TX) earned a BFA in Art History from University of Texas at Austin in 1988. In 1989-1990, he studied under Paul McCarthy and Charles Ray in the graduate program for Studio Art at University of California, Los Angeles. In 1993 he entered the graduate program for Studio Art at the University of Texas at Austin with a concentration in Sculpture, taking a permanent leave of absence in 1996. Coolquitt has been an artist in residence at Artpace, San Antonio, TX (Summer 2016); Chinati Foundation, Marfa, TX (2014), and 21er Haus, Vienna, Austria (2013). He has had solo exhibitions at Disjecta Contemporary Art Center, Portland, OR (2015); Lisa Cooley, New York (2014, 2012, 2010, 2008); Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna, Austria (2014); 21er Haus, Vienna, Austria (2013); and the Blaffer Museum, University of Houston, TX (2013). His work is included in the collections of the Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK; the Österreichische Galerie Belvedere, Vienna, Austria; the Henry Art Gallery at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA; and the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY.

porcelain projects

Jennifer Reeder (b. 1971, Ohio; lives Hammond, IN) will present her recent short film *Marietta Brimble* (2016) in the gallery's video exhibition space. Commissioned by the London Short Film Festival, the piece visualizes a surreal and haunting reverie of youthful dreams and desire. Reeder received an MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her films have been screened at The Whitney Biennial; Sundance Film Festival; The Berlin Film Festival; and the Venice Biennale. Her awards include several that have qualified her films for Oscar nomination. In 2015, Reeder received a grant from Creative Capital. She is currently Associate Professor of Moving Image and Head of the Art Department in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

