

Shall I tell you the secret of the whole world?: Painting, Parody & Disguise

March 29 through September 14, 2014

Curated by Michael Stillion

ARTIST(S) Samuel T. Adams, Mark Fox, Zachary Herrmann, Kim Krause, Chris Land, Mollie Oblinger, Todd Pavlisko, Sarah Blyth Stephens, Michael Stillion, Tony Tasset, Rondle West

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“Man is not what he thinks he is, he is what he hides.”

- Andre Malraux

The work of Columbus-born, Cincinnati-based artist Michael Stillion revels in the delirious disguise, pushing notions of both masquerade and refuge to extreme, theatrical ends. His primary medium – painting – has been caught in a bind for decades: widely practiced, yet dismissed by many in the art world (including the very architect of this building).

The “Death of Painting” has subsequently become a tired refrain of 21st century art theory, even as the supposed funeral shroud becomes a tantalizing curtain to the next act. That which was left for dead, re-emerges in alternate forms of, and beyond canvas and brush. This exhibition assembles artists from, or currently based in Cincinnati who turn camouflage, costuming and misdirection into vehicles for resistance and revelation. Smiling coyly behind the mask with tongue in cheek, this work revels in carnivalesque contradiction: pushing secrets and chagrin into an unfamiliar spotlight.

Artists:

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