

This October at TOKAS as part of *Tokyo Berlin Detroit*, What Pipeline will present works by Mary Ann Aitken, Quintessa Matranga and Michael E. Smith. The work of these artists is tied together by the spirit of individual looking, and a perspective filtered by humor, anxiety and even joy.

Mary Ann Aitken (b. 1960, Detroit, d. 2012, Brooklyn) observed her environment through gestural drawings and thick, layered paintings, moving through a space between representation and abstraction.

Quintessa Matranga's (b.1989 New York) recent series of "drunk paintings" feature glasses of alcohol carefully crafted through a kinetic and intoxicating lens. Free of human figures, the drinks are a space for projecting pathos. The work appears as a critique of masculinity and the trope of the bacchanal artist's life.

Michael E. Smith (b. 1977, Detroit) uses objects that conflate natural and manmade materials and places them in a studied relationship to their surroundings. Departing from the traditional *nature morte*, his work speaks to not just our mortality but of our role in the death of nature itself.

About What Pipeline:

What Pipeline is an artist-run gallery bringing new perspectives in contemporary art to Detroit. Founded in 2013 by Daniel Sperry and Alivia Zivich, What Pipeline has presented artists and collectives from Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Frankfurt, Berlin, London, Sao Paolo, Norway and New York, while introducing Detroit artists to audiences outside of the city through off-site curatorial projects.

What Pipeline received the Artadia NADA NYC 2014 Artist Award for being "purposefully situated to exert pressure from within—and upon—this most utopian of dystopias on contemporary culture at large." What Pipeline is also a two-time recipient of Knight Foundation Detroit Arts Challenge awards, in 2014 for a Detroit artist publication series and in 2016 for an exhibition with artist Pope.L.

“What Pipeline - Aitken, Matranga, Smith”

Mary Ann Aitken, Quintessa Matranga, Michael E. Smith



Mary Ann Aitken
Textural Landscape, 2010
Oil on canvas
14 x 11 inches (35.5 x 27.9 cm)



Mary Ann Aitken
Untitled, c. 1989
Watercolor on paper
5.25 x 5.5 in. (13.3 x 13.9 cm), 13.5 x 13.5 x 1.25 in. (34.3 x 34.3 x 3.2 cm) framed



Mary Ann Aitken
Untitled, c. 1989
Marker on paper
5.75 x 5.75 in. (14.6 x 14.6 cm), 13.5 x 13.5 x 1.25 in. (34.3 x 34.3 x 3.2 cm) framed



Mary Ann Aitken

Untitled (Angel), c. 1989

Watercolor and marker on paper

9 x 20.5 in. (22.9 x 52.1 cm), 13.75 x 25 x 1.5 in. (34.9 x 63.5 x 3.8 cm) framed



Quintessa Matranga

Sweet Silver, 2020

Oil on canvas

60 x 48 in. (154.2 x 122 cm)



Quintessa Matranga

Cherry Bomb, 2020

Oil and acrylic on canvas

59.5 x 48 inches (151 x 122 cm)



Michael E. Smith

Untitled, 2016

Hat

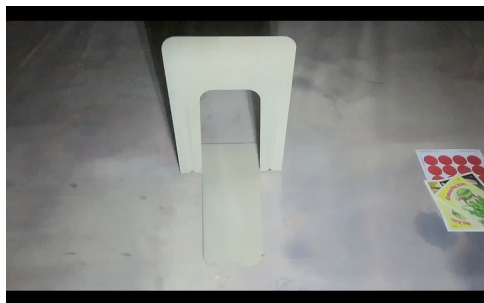
6 x 11.5 in. (15.2 x 29.2 cm)

What Pipeline

info@whatpipeline.com

734-497-6901

3525 W Vernor Hwy, Detroit, MI 48216



Michael E. Smith

Untitled, 2020

Single channel HD video loop

Edition 1 of 10