



IMPERIAL

## **Alaska, 2000**

Ivan Ríos-Fetchko

June 24th, 2023 - August 5th, 2023

Imperial is delighted to announce "Alaska, 2000", a presentation of landscape paintings by Ivan Ríos-Fetchko.

At the end of Houellebecq's novel *Serotonin*, the protagonist prints photographs he has taken from happy moments over the course of his life with lovers and on vacation. He reflects "it was surprising to note how mediocre my photographs were: tourist snapshots in Venice or Florence, exactly like the ones taken by thousands of other tourists; why had I thought it was a good idea to take them?" In an instant, the illusion of individuality is pulled back to reveal the barren similitude of experience. The unique souvenirs of intimate reminiscences dissolve into a mass phenomenon, an ersatz sentimentality endlessly repeated. Executed from collected slide photographs taken as souvenirs by adventuring recreationalists in the Denali of Alaska in July of 2000, the paintings included in Ivan Ríos-Fetchko's solo presentation *Alaska, 2000* express a similar crisis of authenticity.

The found photographic references are armatures upon which Ríos-Fetchko compounds the texture of his own remembered experiences. The means and ends of landscape painting are to augment the template of raw nature into the realm of human spirit, to render the inner outer. Photography operates here as the template that raw nature once was. Painted not en plein air, but in his studio in the dystopian fashion district of downtown Los Angeles, Ríos-Fetchko's paintings bemoan the concession of virgin nature to mass society with heartfelt sincerity, yet remain suspicious of cheap sentimentality. The frontier does not survive modernity unscathed. Ríos-Fetchko's engagement with landscape painting does not paper over the subjective crisis of the modern experience, but rather thematizes it as a phenomenon to behold.

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Ivan Ríos-Fetchko (b. 1994) lives and works in Los Angeles. Recent shows include "The Falls", a solo presentation at Tyler Park Presents, and group presentations "Privacy Creep" at Moskowitz Bayse, "Surprise!" at Tilton Gallery, and "Killer Cute: In Two Parts" at de boer gallery. He holds a dual degree BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and BA in Comparative Literature from Brown University.