



IMPERIAL

The Brood

Johann Mun

April 15th - May 20th, 2023

Imperial is exhilarated to announce *The Brood*, Johann Mun's debut solo presentation in Los Angeles. Mun describes his multidirectional practice straightforwardly as sessions of play during which he interrogates patterns and materials in the spirit of automatism. He unfolds individual works mostly through improvisation, entertaining mistakes as consequential, allowing them to form a new ground of their own. His practice spans numerous media including painting, photography, sculpture and drawing, and he often creates pairings of works or hybridizes established mediums in single works in order to resolve or relocate inherent formal conflicts.

Mun's works are animated by their own inner logic. The forms appear archaic, slow, and organic. Mun guides the works to an evolutionary bloom, in which immediate impressions and impulsive marks sublimate into deeper structures, and new surfaces emerge atop the old forms. There's the sense that the artist works parallel to nature, unfolding a telos from within rather than ascribing meaning from without.

Mun is interested in how both discreet objects and composite objects of varying media can come to find a common ground or direction. In Mun's words: "How does a body sit with another body when their distinct individual qualities are placed within one another and forced to embody a singular emulsified presence? In what way does this differ from the kind of relationship that occurs when bodies are simply placed next to one another, as in the diptychs or general techniques of curation?"

Mapping the patterns of Mun's work according to any rubric is an elusive task. Mun has likened the process to a game of sudoku, in which commitments quickly compound and past decisions are subject to scrutiny and change. In the abstract, this practice has no ultimate resolution, only an impetus and an undulating sense of harmony and discord. Each work in *The Brood* has its own basis and goals. As a brood, they present recognizably familial tensions and bonds. It is left for the viewer to absorb the personalities and to decode the drama.

Johann Mun (b. 1992) is an artist based in Los Angeles. Recent exhibitions of his work include Buzzers at 100 Bell Towers (Montreal, 2022) and Paraphrasing the New Ardent Centuries at Hans Gallery (Chicago, 2022). He received his BFA in Photography and Media from California Institute of the Arts in 2014.