



Teen

David Muenzer

17 January - 23 February, 2025

David Muenzer's practice often follows different states. As things change, attributes may be traded away, maintained, strengthened, or weakened. These operations have taken many forms: from performative immersion in a law firm to entropic, materially driven sculpture. His more recent work has turned to subject formation and inner life, often through drawing. The figure of the teen is an exemplary subject for Muenzer:

"Don't trust anyone over thirty" might have been a motto for my parents' counterculture, but as far as age-interdicts go, I think the teen perspective is much more severe. Don't trust anyone with a total age divergence greater than fourteen months, give or take? The people I thought of as "older," when younger, are fixed that way in my memory. So an upperclassman is always much older, even as the gap in our years proportionally diminishes with time.

The teen bedroom is also the architecture of a new(ish) subject. How long has the teen existed? Not chronological teens, of course, but the protean form that the regulation of child labor laws, a lengthy educational process, and maybe, a lack of voting rights stirs up. Today's bedrooms are places for self-regarding experimentation, studying who one might become or choose to be. And, of course, a stage from which to perform that self.

Muenzer's most recent exhibition, *Twin Study* at Soldes in Los Angeles, used montage strategies and relief sculpture to consider how the past manifests in the present. The artist described the departure point of the exhibition as a dialectic of identity and inheritance, a word etymologically linked to both economic and biological determinism. As Claire Bishop has noted, the obsession with historicity in contemporary art is symptomatic of our shifting landscape of attention: "deju vu is [...] a 'public pathology' resulting from excess of memory, [and] a surfeit of history."¹

This exhibition is a counterpoint to the past-facing investigations of *Twin Study*, following the temporality of the teenage subject to explore what some have called a continuous present.^{2 3} Muenzer's long standing *Sconce* series (2013–) deals in continuity, exactly repeating forms over different exhibitions but shifting the material, scale, or watermark in the unassuming folded paper shapes. In *Teen*, the steady interior lighting produced by the *Sconces* contrasts with the obliterating flash depicted in the paintings. The formal device of the flash removes depth from an image, heightening what it hits while obscuring that which lies beyond the subject.

1. Bishop, Claire. 2024. *Disordered Attention*. Verso Books.
2. Silman, Amy. 2017. *Drawing in the Continuous Present*. Public Program of the Menil Collection.
3. Groys, Boris. 2009. *Comrades of Time*. e-flux Journal. Issue #11.

FINAL HOT DESERT

29 Ability Plaza
Arbutus Street
E8 4DT
London



David Muenzer (b. 1987) lives and works in Los Angeles. Muenzer has presented solo exhibitions at Soldes, Los Angeles; Parapet Real Humans, St. Louis; Dracula's Revenge, New York City; Jan Weenix, Los Angeles; Lord Ludd, Philadelphia; and Reserve Ames, Los Angeles. Recent group exhibitions include C.C.C. Gallery, Copenhagen; The Drawing Center, New York City; Lubov, New York City; Night Gallery, Los Angeles; Bel Ami, Los Angeles; La Maison de Rendez-Vous, Brussels; MOCA, Los Angeles; Park View / Paul Soto, Los Angeles; Balice Hertling, Paris; San Diego Art Institute, San Diego; and M+B, Los Angeles. Muenzer has organised events and performed at venues including Soldes, Los Angeles; The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and at The Lipstick Building, New York City.

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Main Floor

1. *Solo 10 (Fortuna)*, 2025
Oil on linen
150 x 120 cm
2. *Solo 12*, 2025
Coloured pencil on paper
55 x 76 cm
3. *Solo 11*, 2025
Coloured pencil on paper
38 x 28 cm
4. *Sconce (Against Interpretation)*, 2016/2025
Porous nylon, lighting hardware
23 x 12 cm
5. *Solo 8 (The Swing)*, 2023
Coloured pencil on paper
38 x 28 cm
6. *Sconce (Snowden Avatar)*, 2013
Porous nylon, lighting hardware
23 x 10.5 cm

Mezzanine

7. *Duet 5*, 2022
Oil on linen
152.5 x 115 cm
 8. *Teen*, 2024
Oil on linen
101.5 x 76.5 cm
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