

SNAILS presents:

Specter Inspector
by Victoria Duffee

June 27th - 29th, 2025

“It’s the regularness of life that gets to you,” Tony Soprano says, reflecting on the contrast between mob life and mundane reality. The line hits even though we’re not mobsters but artists, who sometimes forget we’re regular people. And we want to live like common people, we want to do whatever common people do. Victoria Duffee’s painting in Specter Inspector takes this line seriously—not just as a mood, but as a way of thinking about painting. It draws from the ordinary because art must begin there—in snapshots of feet, a figure climbing a roof against blue sky, a pair of glasses, a mask, and the artist’s studio—evidence of a life happening. But it’s also about seeing. Our eyes—our looking-machine—by which we see one-frame-at-a-time. Painting can do more: it can stack, layer, or compress multiple moments into one field. Seeing is ordinary, regular, and painting helps us mess with that.

-Agatha Wara