

Matthew Brown

Andrew Kerr

Mitty Mag

May 17–June 22, 2024

712 N La Brea Ave

Los Angeles

Matthew Brown is pleased to present *Mitty Mag*, a solo exhibition of new paintings, drawings, and sculptures by the Scottish artist Andrew Kerr. This is the artist's second exhibition with the gallery.

In *Mitty Mag*, the artist explores the inherent tension between consistency and discovery. Central to Kerr's practice is the imposition of constraints related to medium and scale, challenging the limits of his compositions and chosen materials.

Kerr's paintings are rhythmic, intuitive, and can be simultaneously illuminating and elusive. The artist's decision making and allusions are seemingly animated as we look: repetitive shapes - the head of a screw, upright rectangles, and inverted triangles, for example - emerge from muted colorfields of earthy tones. These linear motifs first appear in Kerr's drawings, are painted, then dictate new pictorial structures as they spread from painting to painting.

While Kerr has always worked within degrees of abstraction, these recent paintings tend more towards the associative and allusive as his lexicon of symbols reach for a higher definition. Swaths of color become forms themselves as landscapes and scenes of action materialize, some suggest a cliffside or pastures, while others seem to depict the repeated pounding of a hammer into a nail, or the movement of an animal - perhaps a cantering horse or bird in flight - across the picture plane. The works in the exhibition also speak of Kerr's studied interest in art history and recall Diebenkorn's aerial-view landscapes, the textures of Prunella Clough, and the limited palettes and draftsman's sensibility of Georges Braque.

The artist works closely with Glasgow framers Steph Shiels and Marian Campbell. The resulting frames are made with a variety of wood, some salvaged, and are carefully executed to complement the painting within, the carrier and carried becoming one.

Three sculptures are included in the show, a mode of expression Kerr has not used since graduating from art school in Glasgow. The sculptures, which include a cabinet taken from the artist's home, and a papier-mâché cast of a bale of rope, are intended to blend painting and sculpture, and to enliven sensation.

As the title *Mitty Mag* is an utterance unmoored from meaning in the English language and open to influence from the reader's experiences, Kerr's artworks occupy a similar position. The artist's discrete use of logography and abstraction lend themselves to the associations of the viewer, as individual pieces and as a whole. Encouraged by the rhythm and flow of the compositions, the experience of viewing Kerr's work is one of receiving, internalizing, and at some points, letting go.

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Andrew Kerr (b. 1977 Glasgow) lives and works in Glasgow.

Selected solo exhibitions include *Flattering the Penny*, The Modern Institute, Glasgow (2023); *Andrew Kerr*, Kerry Schuss Gallery, New York, NY (2022); *Bridge for July*, Matthew Brown, Los Angeles (2021); *Mist At The Pillars*, The Modern Institute, Glasgow (2019); *Andrew Kerr*, BLUM, New York (2018); *Wyndham School of Dancing*, The Modern Institute, Glasgow (2016); *Away with Nora*, BQ, Berlin (2015); *The gallery is beside a church, apartments and a small park with fountain*, Rat Hole Gallery, Tokyo (2015); *the Other Shop*, The Modern Institute, Glasgow (2014); *My Ceiling Our Responsibility*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago (2014); *Haul in*, Cousin, BQ, Berlin (2012); *So Ensconced*, Inverleith House, Edinburgh (2011); *Deliveries: feeling one, running one, accepting one, against one, preparing one, revising one and sending one*, Kunstverein Bremerhaven, Germany (2009).

Group exhibitions include *I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING • WHO CAN I BE NOW*, The Modern Institute, Glasgow (2021); *Rohstoff Pouquoi*, BQ, Berlin (2020); *Sipgate Shows Brexit: Mail Art from a Small Island*, Sipgate, Düsseldorf (2019); *Du coq à l'âne*, The Beautiful Ordinary, Pau-Pyrenees, France (2019); *Foundation Painting Show* (for Glasgow International), British Heart Foundation, Glasgow (2018); *The What You Do, I Like*, Hospitalfield Arts, Arbroath, Scotland (2018); *Cave Ways Broadcast* (for Glasgow International), David Dale Gallery, Glasgow (2016); *I Cheer a Dead Man's Sweetheart*, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill, England (2014); *A Picture Show*, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow (2013).

In 2020, Andrew curated an exhibition at the Hunterian Art Gallery entitled *Years Off The Schooling: A Selection From The Hunterian*.