

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Andrew Kerr

Blum & Poe, New York

July 12 - August 17, 2018

Opening reception: Thursday, July 12, 6-8pm

Blum & Poe is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings by Glasgow-based artist Andrew Kerr. This is the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery, and his first in New York City.

This series of intimately-scaled works on paper offers its own distinct form of representation, dictated by the nuances of acrylic paint and established studio habits. Beginning with a succession of scattered marks on blank sheets, these slow compositions accrue dense layers of paint over the course of many months. Kerr employs improvisational compositional methods in an effort to achieve a distinct pictorial structure and mood—always light and vulnerable, sometimes coherent or dissonant. Soft fields of pale pinks and powder blues variously meet with strong strokes of vermilion and alternating textures. A shared atmosphere ties together these abstracted forms into a visual vernacular of chariots, shelters, industrial machinery, insects, robes, and a stage. Some of the works in this presentation hover just above the gallery walls by pins; others are framed by Kerr's own whimsical wooden constructions. Influences from art history old and new reverberate through this body of work—from late-19th century decorative painting, to mid-20th century British painters Carel Weight and Prunella Clough, to Glasgow-based peers, tutors, and forebears Tony Swain, Victoria Morton, Cathy Wilkes, and Merlin James.

As curator Kai Kähler puts it, "Instead of confident assertions, his works prefer to communicate a sense of investigative restraint. But they are not in any way random. Instead, they radiate a feeling of great earnestness. With their progressive nature they document a self-reflective creative process, they demand respect and thus constitute a moment of gravity in the general hubbub of inconsequential superficiality."

Andrew Kerr (b. 1977) graduated from the Glasgow School of Art in 1999, and currently lives and works in Glasgow. His work has been exhibited internationally, selected shows include: *I Cheer a Dead Man's Sweetheart*, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea, UK (2014); *A Picture Show*, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Scotland (2013); *So Enconced*, Inverleith House, Edinburgh, Scotland (2011); *Fizz Up and Dissolve*, The Project Room, Glasgow, Scotland (2010); and *Deliveries: feeling one, running one, accepting one, against one, preparing one, revising one and sending one*, Kunstverein Bremerhaven, Germany (2009).

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