

Steve Bishop *The Caretaker*

Press Release — opening February 1st and 2nd



The Caretaker 2018
(video frame)

Galeria Jaqueline Martins is proud to announce Steve Bishop's "The Caretaker" – the first solo exhibition by the London-based artist to be presented in South-America.

After exhibiting for the first time in Galeria Jaqueline Martins within the context of CONDO 2018, the Canadian-born artist brings to São Paulo a video-installation and a selection of new collages that focus on preservation, the passing of time, and how mental constitutions can be materialized, using architectural space as a means to reflect interior states – all subjects that have been permeating the artist's research throughout his career.

The exhibition takes its title from the work *The Caretaker* (2018), a 24-minute long film shot by the artist in a deserted town in northern Canada, which will occupy most of the gallery space. After being built in 1981 to house workers of a nearby mine, the town was abandoned only two years later after the mine's closure. In the hope that families could soon return, a live-in caretaker was hired by the local administration to preserve the streets and buildings, in what has now been a 36-year struggle to prevent the surrounding forest from reclaiming the town. The film is not only a testament to the caretaker's efforts (who continue to mow the lawns, fix houses' roofs and maintain indoor heating), but it also documents the presence of human occupation (lighting and electricity humming) against an encroaching force of nature.

The group of collages come from a recent body of work (2019-ongoing) and are comprised of found photographs and pages taken from a largely forgotten North American self-help sect founded in the mid-1950's and inspired by the ideologies and methods of Scientology. The group has been described as a cult, and has published many publications that focused on self-empowerment and optimization of everyday life.



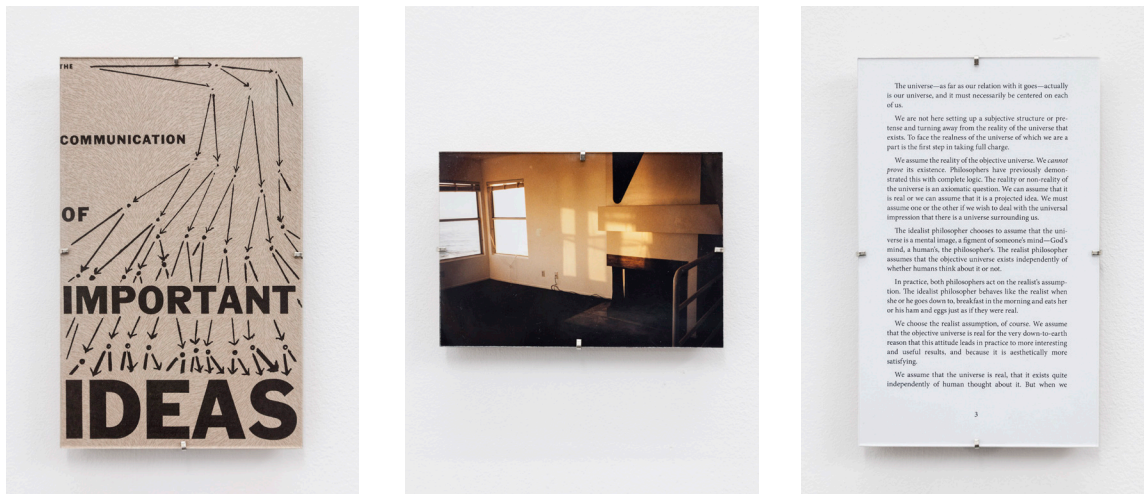
Good Habits 2019



The Caretaker 2018
(video frame)



You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To 2016



Figment 2019

Throughout the pages selected by Bishop, it's easy to see how the group's use of slogans and motivational advice (on topics as wide-reaching as both tidying your house and how to live forever), seemed to give aid to those who were looking to keep inner and outer feelings and ideas out of their bodies and minds. This idea when seen next to the status of the Canadian town, fighting the effects of time and natural decay, can be understood here as a window into Bishop's concern on how the desire for structure, for inner and outer clarity, seems to be as desirable as it is acutely endangered.

Steve Bishop (b. 1983 Toronto, CA; lives and works in London, UK). In his practice, Bishop focuses on surreal spatial environments that conjure subtle emotional states through the evocation of abstract, dream-like parallel worlds. Recent institutional solo presentations of Bishop's work have taken place at Kunstverein Braunschweig (2019) and KW Institute of Contemporary Art, Berlin (2018).

Visitor Information:

Opening: February 01 and 02, 2020, 2 - 6 pm.

Dates: February 01 - March 07, 2020

Monday - Friday, 10 am - 7 pm | Saturday, 12 pm - 5 pm.

Rua Dr. Cesário Mota Junior, 433 - Vila Buarque, São Paulo | +55 11 2628-1943

www.galeriajaquelinemartins.com.br

press contact: caio@galeriajaquelinemartins.com.br