

For Immediate Release:
info@deboergallery.com
@deboergallery



Michael St. John

The Interregnum

27 April - 22 June, 2024

de boer | Los Angeles
3311 E Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90023

Opening Reception: Saturday, 27 April (5 - 9 pm)

de boer (Los Angeles) is proud to present *The Interregnum*, a solo exhibition by **Michael St. John**. This exhibition displays St. John's exploration of temporality, liminal spaces, and the intersection of cinema and minimalism. Details from cinematic stills painted in grisaille are combined with assertive color blocking, challenging our understanding of the most fundamental aspect of both painting and cinema, the frame.

Through interregnum - a period of suspension between successive reigns or regimes - St. John reflects on the uncertainty and confusion inherent in the absence of structure. He divides space, simultaneously creating an image and experience that exudes ephemerality. Like the enigmatic female figure in 'Francesca', who, with her back turned, is seemingly in between actions. This painting sparks a feeling of being witness to something, although not entirely clear what. The color planes, which obstruct our full view of the scene, further emphasize this sense of liminality—abstracting not only the figure's environment but also the viewer's relationship to the painting.

Drawing from John McLaughlin's geometric paintings and masterpieces such as Johannes Vermeer's *The Art of Painting* and Diego Velázquez's *Las Meninas*, St. John creates an architectural frame for cinematic scenes. By challenging the architecture of the canvas, framed by the principles of minimalism and cinematography, St. John's paintings offer enigmatic compositions where uncertain relationships provoke introspection and questions about reality, illusion, and one's relationship to nature.

ABOUT MICHAEL ST. JOHN

Michael St. John's work conveys a sustained commitment to observing and re-presenting experiences of the everyday. Gathering source materials by casting an inclusive and penetrating gaze on the world through which he moves, St. John layers newspaper clippings, found images, fragmented language and everyday objects into captivating collaged portraits of the world at present. Underlying this recalibration of the growing circuit of visual information is an insightful and rigorous formal practice informed by Rauschenberg, Warhol, Ashcan School artists, and 19th-century American trompe l'oeil painting. With a dedication to recognize and commemorate the time we live in, St. John's work reflects on notions of violence, tragedy, narcissism, racism, and indifference, drawing stimulating connections that kindle new and compassionate perspectives on contemporary culture. St. John has shown his work extensively over the past thirty years in museums, alternative spaces and galleries throughout the United States. He has presented exhibitions at Andrea Rosen Gallery, Team Gallery, Karma, Marlborough Contemporary, Edward Cella in LA, CCS Bard, The Rubell Family Collection, The Weatherspoon Art Museum, Andrew Kreps and Feature Inc.

Image:
Michael St. John, *Francesca*, 2024, oil and acrylic on canvas, 42 x 42 in. / 106.68 x 106.68 cm.