

Matt's Gallery

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Press release **Ian McKeever** ***Against Architecture***

9 February–19 March 2017, Thursday–Sunday 12–6pm

Private View: Sunday 5 February 3–6pm

Ian McKeever

Selected one-person exhibitions

2017 Galleri Andersson/Sandstrom, Stockholm **2016** Galleri Susanne Ottesen, Copenhagen **2015** Sonderjylland Kunstmuseum, Tønder **2014** Horsens Kunstmuseum; Kunst Station Sankt Peter, Cologne; HackelBury Fine Art, London **2012** Josef Albers Museum, Quadrat, Bottrop **2010** Royal Academy of Arts, London **2008** Alan Cristea Gallery, London **2007** Kunsthallen Brandts, Odense; Morat Institute, Freiburg **2006** Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen **2003** Nordic Aquarellmuseum, Skarhamn **2002** Galerie Stadtpark, Krems **1995** Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee; Matt's Gallery, London **1990** DAAD Galerie, Berlin; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Galerie Tanit, Cologne/Munich **1989** Kunstforum, Stadtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich **1987** Kunstverein Braunschweig **1986** Nigel Greenwood Gallery, London **1985** Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol **1982** Kunsthalle Nuremberg **1981** Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool and Museum of Modern Art Oxford **1973** ICA, London

Selected Group exhibitions

2012 National Museum of Norway, Oslo **2011** Tate Britain, London **2005** National Gallery, Beijing and Shanghai Art Museum **1999** Yale Center for British Art, Newhaven **1996** Reina Sofia, Madrid and Museo d'Art Contemporarie, Barcelona; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto **1995** Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh **1992** Folkwang Museum, Essen **1991** Musee des Beaux Arts, Lausanne **1989** Tate Gallery, Liverpool **1986** Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt **1985** Moderna Museet, Stockholm

For his fourth exhibition at Matt's Gallery, Ian McKeever is exhibiting a selection from two recent series, *Eagduru* and *Against Architecture* (both 2012–13), which combine painting and photography. Exceptionally, for an artist who emerged in the 1970s within the context of British Conceptual art – a movement which rejected painting – McKeever's early work was characterised by a synthesis of abstract painting and analogue photography, juxtaposed as relative means of articulating an experience of the remote landscapes he would venture into on field trips.

At the end of the 1980s, he abandoned the photographic component from his painting, and it was not until a decade ago, in *Hartgrove Photographs* (2007–10) – a series of intimate, high-contrast photographs of the interior of McKeever's home in Dorset – that it began to reappear. The works presented here contain similar, interior images. In *Eagduru*, a photographic print and a canvas are adhered to separate but abutting plywood panels, returning to McKeever's earlier use of the diptych form as a dialectical device. *Against Architecture* breaks up the panels into puzzles of smaller blocks, and further erodes the decipherability of the images. Gradations of oil stain and photographic grain jar against brilliantly coloured monochrome inserts.

A series of raw plasterboard panels have been erected throughout the gallery, with manufacturer's markings left on the rear. The works are hung on both sides of the temporary walls, as well as on the undecorated walls of the gallery, drawing the viewer through a maze that activates the gallery space. The various, more or less provisional surfaces and planes, on which the works are hung, reflect those of the works themselves. The preposition in the title of the exhibition – *Against Architecture* – suggests both proximity to its noun and variance with it. A claim to pictoriality is challenged, as much by the atomised formal structures McKeever adopts in the works themselves, as by the makeshift structures he hangs them on. The installation is an exploration of how the fragility of pictorial illusion subsists amid a world of contingencies. In a contemporary visual culture in which images come cheap, the effect is to reestablish our sense of them as fugitive, mysterious and hard-won.

For further information or visual material please contact
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All works courtesy of the artist and Galleri Susanne Ottesen, Copenhagen

Tube: Borough (Northern line) London Bridge (Jubilee, Northern lines, & overground);
Buses: 1, 42, 47, 78, 188, 343, 381, C10

Director: Robin Klassnik

www.mattsgallery.org