

EQUINOX GALLERY
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Erin McSavaney: *Fixed Reality*

June 19 to July 17, 2021

Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

Equinox Gallery is delighted to present *Fixed Reality*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by Erin McSavaney. The paintings in this exhibition focus on spaces of everyday life and demonstrate how under close examination our perception of reality can be changed. Inspired by the practices of the 1960s Photorealist painters, McSavaney's paintings are drawn from observations of his subjective urban landscape. McSavaney begins by walking or biking through urban spaces and carefully documents various interactions between nature and architecture. He then renders hyper-realistic spaces in acrylic paint on canvas. From afar, these paintings appear as a photograph or film still; but upon close inspection subtle details such as a flattened blue sky or shadow rendered out of perspective bring attention to the physical object of painting itself.

Painting the often overlooked and mundane details of urban life, *Fixed Reality* shifts our perceptions of the most familiar aspects of our daily lives. After moving out of Vancouver, McSavaney revisited the city and documented various places where he has memories. He examined each structure's initial promise and activates the space in a new way through bold geometric forms. The result is a composition that boldly bridges the divide between photorealism and abstraction. Plants are used as an intersecting point between the vivid geometric forms and the photorealistic urban spaces. McSavaney studies the effects of natural versus artificial, whether overgrown foliage or intricately pruned trees, the landscape and structures in these spaces directly inform one another and encourage viewers to consider what is real or fiction.

Fixed Reality also includes related watercolour studies. Comprised of two-inch squares and geometric forms, these studies were used as a way to develop McSavaney's own approach to formal colour relationships. This exercise helped McSavaney in terms of understanding his predilections of colour selection and allowed him to experiment with his ability to move beyond those choices. Referencing Barnett Newman's ideologies and contributions to colour field painting, McSavaney is interested in the expressive potential of colour, concentrating on the intricate interplays and subtle coherence of forms and colours.

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Born in Vancouver in 1973, Erin McSavane studied at Emily Carr University of Art + Design and graduated from Capilano University in 1998. He has exhibited his work across Canada and the United States, and is represented in both public and private collections, such as Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) and TD Bank Group (Toronto). This is the artist's seventh solo exhibition with Equinox Gallery.

Erin McSavane lives and works in Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada.