

TYLER STALLINGS

About the artwork

Tyler Stallings has been trespassing into several of the numerous houses that are under construction along coastal southern California cities, taking photographs, which then become the basis for his paintings. These interior images show exposed wood frames, drywall, exposed plumbing, and other details that await their usage. Out of context, the images suggest an in between state as it is unclear if the buildings are being built or dismantled. Devoid of people, the buildings take on a more sculptural persona. In both respects, his works are reminiscent of artist Gordon Matta-Clark's interventions with houses in the 1970s. Stallings' paintings of incomplete home interiors also echo the recent housing boom in southern California. Stallings aims for a haunted, moody, and uncanny atmosphere.

The style of his paintings is a polished realism. He begins many of his paintings with an airbrushed acrylic under painting, followed by oil staining that seeps into the weave of the canvas, then applies fine brushwork of oil and alkyd paint, and several layers of glazing.

Stallings' paintings share a kinship with the international resurgence in representational painting among young artists. His approach to painting is one that reveals a thorough interest in the history of painting, looking to other painters such as Rembrandt and Vermeer, combined with a tweaked viewpoint of modern-day subject matter.

Stallings received his MFA from California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, California. Recently he had solo exhibitions at Newspace Gallery in Los Angeles and the Phoenix Center for Contemporary Art, Phoenix, AZ. Recent group exhibitions include those at Solomon Projects in Atlanta, Georgia, and VTO Gallery in London. Stallings is also chief curator at Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California. He most recently conducted an extended interview with artist Ruby Osorio for a catalog that will accompany her first solo museum exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.

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