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Van Hanos "Not The Way" at Tanya Leighton, Berlin

October 3~2014



Tanya Leighton is pleased to announce "Not The Way", a solo exhibition of new paintings by New York based artist Van Hanos. This is his first exhibition at the gallery.

Hanos' approach to painting is valued on difference; one work may be hyperreal—a historical rendition of painting tradition—while another may be an amalgamation of styles stretching from pre-Raphaelite to the editing techniques of Photoshop. Placed in direct dialogue with each other, neither is privileged and neither is employed ironically or in parody. Hanos' range of approaches is held to the same principles that Hanos values not only in painting, but also in his view of life and the images that fill it.

In "Not The Way", Hanos' portrays the entities of each subject as solitary and alienated. A one-time sculpture is now a broken relic of a man who is unable to move, to procreate, to speak. A scarecrow takes on the role of Sisyphus, eternally carving and discarding his own head. Utilizing painting's seeming immunity to critical detraction—the medium having already weathered countless proclamations of its death—Hanos engages the sparseness of the white, primed canvas, isolating his imagery from its context. This gesture creates space for seemingly disparate narratives and personal reflection to materialize, fade and return again like the ensemble cast of an Altman film. "Not The Way" reveals Hanos' rubric as broad and inclusive, constantly expanding alongside his lived experience and amounting to a poignant exploration of painting's capacity to construct images as totemic, mysterious and representative of singular experience.

at Tanya Leighton, Berlin

until 11 October 2014

TANYA LEIGHTON



Van Hanos, "Not The Way" installation views at Tanya Leighton, Berlin, 2014
Courtesy: Tanya Leighton, Berlin