

Samuel Blatt
LINDA HODGES GALLERY
October 4-27, 2018

Peers: Leisure, Inactivity and the Korean War

Inspired by several thousand inherited photographs taken in Japan and California during the Korean war, Blatt's newest collection of paintings showcases peer relationships between American soldiers and civilians during times of leisure and inactivity.

While the scenes throughout *Peers* look friendly at first glance, the photographs that the paintings are based on were taken less than 10 years after World War II. With this historical lens, viewers are left to wonder about lingering tensions from the recent war in Japan and how those dynamics might have shaped the relationships depicted in the series.

Though inspired by real photographs, Blatt allowed himself to edit the images and affect the meaning throughout the series. Blatt's Technique aims to show the viewer where to look and insinuates how to feel about each section of the painting. Unimportant information has been blurred to push the viewer's eye away from these areas.

During the making of this series, Blatt was also heavily influenced by the cinematography of Henri Clouzot, Jean Cocteau, and Robert Wise. Two films he studied closely are Wise's *The Haunting* (1963), and Clouzot's unfinished film *Inferno* (1964). Wise and Clouzot both used blurring and cropping to direct the eye to the important areas of the composition and create moments of anticipation, tension, and intrigue. Throughout *Peers*, Blatt uses those same cinematic methods of tension to enhance the narrative in his paintings.

Peers opens on Thursday October 4, 2018 at 6:00 pm at Linda Hodges Gallery (316 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104) and will be exhibited through the end of the month.

About Samuel Blatt

Samuel Batt graduated from the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago in 2012 with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Painting in 2012. During his studies, Blatt apprenticed under Master Painter Kevin Wolff. Throughout his career, Blatt has been a private drawing tutor and an assistant teacher for multiple drawing and painting classes. His first series at Linda Hodges Gallery, *Women Detroit* exhibited in April 2017 and was also inspired by a large collection of vintage photographs.

Peers is Blatt's second show at Linda Hodges Gallery in Seattle. Please call the gallery at [\(206\) 624-3034](tel:2066243034) for questions or viewings.