

Emblem Production

David Oates / Daniel Berio / Mat MacDonald

The Horse, Dublin

June 15th - July 1st, 2023

The **HORSE**

The most reoccurring thing that has been written in the guestbook at the gallery over the past year reads 'More Graffiti'. In answer to that request the Horse is happy to announce *Emblem Production*: a group show that presents 3 artists whose lives have been intertwined with graffiti writing since the last century: David Oates, Daniel Berio and Mat MacDonald.

This group of artists departed from that same point many moons ago. Here they present a selection of drawings with a refined sense of form and flow. The works themselves hold a history of many years of toil: they are emblematic to their creator. These refined hands come directly from Graf, a discipline that has been compared to Jazz: improvisation within a rigid context. Whilst Graf is a subculture that exists in a state of nature there are a few rules - one of which is paramount and available in *Emblem Production*. Your work has to be original/stand out - the more refined your execution is, the more visible it becomes.

David Oates was born in London in 1976. He makes work about the appreciation of unloved and overlooked places. David is a civil servant in the UK, and over the past 8 years he has made over 11,000 drawings on post-it notes, whilst at his desk. Here at the gallery he presents a set of these drawings. This prolific activity on small bits of yellow paper represent a minuscule amount of his machine-like output. What is held in the drawings is a remarkable patience which verges on the mechanical as well as a perceived defiance within his working environment, it should be noted that whilst he succeeds in making these 11,000 drawings he is commended for his actual work in his day-job.

Daniel Berio used to be active painting trains since the mid 90's in Florence, Italy. He holds a PhD in computing and is currently teaching at university level in London. He has been researching ways of capturing the aesthetic of graffiti with algorithmically driven generative systems, drawing machines and robots. Here, he presents a selection of compositions that have been drawn purely by machine and code. These drawings contain echoes of that patience seen in David's work but this time literally using the patience of a machine, representing Daniel's highly conceived letterforms.

Mat MacDonald is a West London native, whose work would read to be familiar to anyone with an interest in London Graffiti over the past 30 years. Here, at The Horse he presents large scale drawings of technological objects, taken from his series *Talk to The Machine*. Mat's large scale renderings of cameras show in exquisite detail the textures and machining of the object. Giving a centre stage to these tools that are indispensable enable our rebroadcasting. Literally they are the lens that captures and reprojects our lives.

Emblem Production is open until July 1st.

Founded in 2021 The Horse is a contemporary art space in Dublin 1 that seeks to provide a platform for emerging, experimental and underrepresented art practitioners. For sales and viewings please email Matthew Wilkinson: mw@thehosedublin.xyz