

BLUE VELVET

ADAM CRUCES: *Pastels*

11.06 – 05.09.2026

The exhibition brings together a large group of small pastels, installed across the walls of the gallery in a continuous, almost panoptic arrangement. The works move freely through their subjects: objects, landscapes, bodies, faces, rooms, animals, filmic fragments, and scenes that feel at once familiar and unsettling. Rather than building a single narrative, the exhibition unfolds through shifts in attention, from the everyday to the uncanny, from observation to something closer to a dream or a half-remembered image.

In *Pastels*, Cruces uses the immediacy of the medium to move quickly between themes, with little distance between gesture and surface, allowing images to appear with the directness of a sketch while carrying the weight of a painting. Seen together, they create a dense field of images. Each pastel remains compact and intimate, but their accumulation evokes a fragmented, mysteriously peculiar experience of reality, where even hyper-recognizable elements manage to evade an overt sequence of meaning.

Adam Cruces was born in 1985 in Houston, TX. He graduated with his BFA in Interdisciplinary Art from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2008, and his MFA in Art and Media from Zürcher Hochschule der Künste in 2013. His work focuses on how we interact with the landscape, while incorporating a wide variety of material approaches - painting, sculpture, and video. These elements often culminate in installations that collapse notions of obligation and leisure, nature and domestication, the familiar and the foreign.

Cruces has exhibited at Kunsthau Baselland, Basel, CH; Swiss Institute, Milan, IT, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Kunsthau Langenthal, Langenthal, CH; kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga, LV; Kunsthal Aarhus, Aarhus, DK; Museo della Frutta, Turin, IT. He has held residencies at Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, FR; Rupert, Vilnius, LT; and Cripta747, Turin, IT; Sigg Art Foundation, Le Castellet, FR; and Nordisk Kunstnarsenter Dale, Dale, NO.