

Hägring

ARTIST MANIFESTO — NO. 01

Luke Denton McComish

IRELAND · PAINTING · BORN 1996

“Painting is a slow form of attention. I work until the figure stops performing and simply exists.”

STATEMENT

My practice begins with people I know and rooms I have lived in. I paint interiors that hold time — a sweater, a chair, the particular grey of afternoon light — and I let the surface record my hesitation. Colour arrives late, and only when the drawing has earned it.

I am interested in the moment before a gesture resolves: the pause between intimacy and distance. The figures are neither portraits nor archetypes. They are witnesses to an ordinary situation, painted with enough care that the situation becomes unfamiliar again.

METHOD

Oil on linen, worked wet into wet over several weeks. I build a muted underpainting, then break it with saturated passages — orange, ochre, cobalt — so the image holds two temperatures at once. Nothing is finished quickly; the work is closed when the paint stops asking for another decision.

COMMITMENTS

To make fewer, better paintings. To keep the studio slower than the market. To exhibit only where the architecture, the light and the writing serve the work. To remain legible to the people I paint.

SELECTED CONTEXT

Founding artist of Hägring No. 01, a private nomadic presentation staged between Paris and Stockholm. Works held in private collections in Ireland, France and Sweden.

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