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*Quiet In-Betweens*13 June–17 July 2025

Kate McClenaghen

Tache is pleased to present Quiet In-Betweens, the first solo exhibition by painter Kate McClenaghen. Conceived over two years living and painting in South London, a new body of work in acrylic and mixed media materialises from the gaps between photograph and memory; between the physicalities of present experience and the imaginative constructions of retrospect.

Sixteen canvases and two painted books exist together, tiles in a mosaic of the artist's movements through moments and geographies: as a commuter, a passer-by and an intentional observer. Whilst christened with timestamps, in recognition of the photographs McClenaghen habitually snaps whilst in transit, each work makes a considered departure from realistic representation. Side-street façades – corrugated shopfronts, brickwork panels and sun-bleached lace curtains – are expressed in overlap, borrowing each other's likenesses as if half-remembered. Filtering faithful representation through the haze of memory, layering acrylics with unconventional and domestic mediums, McClenaghen performs an abstracted contemplation of the spaces she has come to call home. Her Quiet In-Betweens take pause between figuration and abstraction, as palimpsestic records of a world not yet formed but already derelict; of spaces publicly accessible yet not quite knowable.

McClenaghen attributes her vibrant palette to the influence of the Glasgow School of Art, known for its encouragement and mentorship of expressionist and colouristic methods, which her work exemplifies. For this reason, many of the artists she has come to admire trained at GSA or spent long periods in Glasgow such as Joan Eardly and Andrew Cranston. She further credits the work of canonical artists, such as Robert Rauschenberg, in shaping her ever-evolving handling of mixed media.

In the artist's own words,

I aim to construct penetrable scenes, environments porous to the immersion of their viewers. I am trying to relate the experience of moving through these spaces, whilst encouraging the formation of new narratives disparate from my own. These paintings draw upon a mixture of memory and observation to create the feeling of a combined cityscape, memoryscape and dreamscape.

Kate McClenaghen (b. 2001, Wrexham, Wales) is a painter and mixed media artist. She graduated from her BA at The Glasgow School of Art in 2023 where she was presented The Glasgow Art Club Award, and most recently completed her MA in Painting at The Royal College of Art in 2024 under the Paul Destry Scholarship. Recent exhibitions include Greengallery, Stirlingshire, Scotland, MoMA Machynlleth, Wales, and Seeing Loud, London.