

Out of Place

Taylor Laufersweiler

Second Floor Gallery

Aug 13 - September 17, 2022

Artist Statement:



As a site for perspectival and spatial transformation, my work exists within a realm where vulnerability and contradiction form one's experience. Considering the tectonic duality of entropy, and within that queerness, these drawn and structural cues of queering space lead to questioning values that lie at the core of human experience: trust, positioning, understanding, and navigation. Further complicating my navigation of the pictorial space are incongruous color choices and intrusive di-dimensional elements, further impeding my ability to make sense of these images. Utilizing architecture as a starting point, doors, windows, staircases and other points of spatial transition become visual references to deeper transformations. These painted transformations are about queering space. I play with scale, light, spatial understanding, and form; contradictions lead to vulnerability, and as your eyes move around the surface these compositions arise and then collapse. This experience is not unlike the experience of being a queer person. Unexpected boundaries appear at the last moment, some experiences are visible but not accessible. As such, the viewer must become comfortable with continually reorienting their gaze, as opposed to being stable. The seeming chaos of the painting's compositions feed into how the viewer navigates them, and further conveys the discomfort of being limited by constant reorientation, or code-switching. However, the play between visual expectation and the actual composition is hardly chaotic; it is an account of real, lived experience.

Bio:

Taylor Laufersweiler (b. 1994, Fort Dodge, Iowa) works primarily through drawing, painting and installation, often bridging the three together. His work attempts to queer space and perception in order to reorient through disorientation. Disorientation lies at the core of the work as a means to navigate the sensation of being, and feeling, out of place. Taylor's work places himself within an imagined space made up of lines, symbols, and passageways. The space becomes slanted and collapsed as a means to explore ideas of entropy in relation to identity. Entropy that, supersedes the definition of order to disorder, confronting and questioning his own sense of direction, locating him within a liminal space. Liminal space, the time between what was and what is — a place of transition, a place of not knowing.