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Modes of Representation:
An Introduction by H. Michael Sanders
The term “representation” suggests a type of description or portrayal of someone or something. In the visual arts this implies that the art object depicts something other than or outside itself. In some cases the mode of representation is iconic, and relies on ideas or symbols. Other modes of representation include the spectrum of “realism” ranging from photorealism to expressionistic realism, all of which attempt to portray subjects from real life in both physical and metaphysical ways (sensory and affected). Then, there is the mode of abstract representation that is derived from formal considerations, and often seeks to depict subjects that are purely physical (non-objective, ephemeral). In this exhibition, artists Jeremy Long, Nicole Trimble and Elijah Van Benschoten explore a wide range of representational strategies, all of which revolve around creating visceral, intimate worlds that reach far beyond mere reproduction of subjects in the physical world. While they differ in style, media and inspiration, all three of these artists are engaged in active investigations of the fertile intersection between concrete reality and eternal flux, from whence a surprising, instinctive sense of poetry emerges into compelling visual form.

Jeremy Long’s work, deeply involved in exploration of the human figure, simultaneously evokes both the quiet tensions of external, familial relationships and the constant, introspective pull of private, personal experience that bristles at the root of our everyday lives. Nicole Trimble explores her own introspective tensions in the existential synapse bridging objective reality and subjective, personal experience in works that are simultaneously fluid and static, and which function as amorphous looking glasses reflecting thought and idea onto physical form and sensation. The intense technique and work ethic evident in Elijah Van Benschoten’s drawings contrasts curiously with the wacky pop culture references and Dadaistic humor of their titles. This contrast underscores and helps to fuel the persistent tension between interior experience and exterior reality running freely through the work.

By bringing these various approaches to visual representation together, and allowing them to interact with one another within the confines of the gallery, it is hoped that the viewer will be able to discern how a wide range of techniques and artistic interests can converge on the same point, well-coming to illuminate, and perhaps entertain, as well as depict both the objective and subjective worlds that we concurrently inhabit.
Jeremy Long

Elements of self-examination and introspection lie at the core of my work, but it is not my intent for the imagery to be viewed directly as self-portraiture or as solely personal. Rather, I want viewers to be active in their perceptual responses to the imagery, and to draw connections between it and their own experiences. These paintings are my attempt to outline the sometimes tenuous and turbulent connection between one’s interior and exterior environments – acknowledging both the unique experience of the core of the work, but it is not my intent for the

About the Artist
Jeremy Long is an American painter who is an exponent of the Figurative movement in painting, specifically Post Abstract Figuration. He was born in Chicago, Illinois and studied with a number of leading American painters, including Gabriel Lademann, Stanley Lewis and Wilbur Niewald at The Kansas City Art Institute.

After graduation from The Kansas City Art Institute, he returned to Chicago where he co-founded the Sheerverville Gallery, at W64 N 50th, with fellow alumni. Following six months in Rome to paint, landscapes, Long was accepted into the Painting program at American University in Washington, D.C., where he earned his MFA working closely with Stanley Lewis and visiting artist Richard Ryan. Long has exhibited in NYC, Chicago IL, Washington DC, and St. Louis MO.

Long has taught at Knox College, Assumption College, Ithaca College and is currently an Associate Professor at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

About the Artist
Nicole Trimble is an Ohio-based artist and educator with a studio-practice grounded in painting and printmaking. She holds a BFA in painting from Miami University and an MFA from the University of Cincinnati’s College of DAAP. She currently lives and works in Cincinnati, Ohio.

About the Artist
Elijah Van Benschoten is a painter, drawer, printmaker, and photographer. Elijah Van Benschoten maintains a vigorous multidisciplinary studio practice as well as an active college-teaching career. Elijah recently completed 1,000 consecutive days of producing at least one drawing a day, then a thousand more of color study, and now I’m on to the human figure. He reached a point in my life where I choose to make art that pleases me and maybe also makes me laugh. This feels a lot more meaningful than anything else I could be doing right now.

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Nicole Trimble

About the Artist
Jeremy Long

About the Artist
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