

TOMATO HOUSE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BETH LIVENSBERGER

INHABITANT

September 13 - October 13, 2013

Opening reception Friday, September 13

Beth Livensberger explores memory, reflection, and the hidden life of Tomato House in a new series of site-specific paintings.

The paintings were made over a period of several months, entirely on location. Livensberger engaged in extended sessions of drawing and painting at Tomato House, working in and around its occupants' daily routines of work, thinking, and rest. In turn, the other inhabitants navigated around easel and canvases as if a plein air painter had moved indoors. The exhibition takes her process of observation of the private living spaces that are behind and above the public gallery, and presents the resulting paintings in the gallery. She occupies the space first as an observer then an interpreter.

The resulting works provide an anthropology of daily life, albeit fragmented, altered, and not entirely faithful. As the paintings progressed, certain details within the tableau vivant shifted; white walls tinged pink, blond wood floors stained red. From day to day, objects and furniture were reconfigured, or vanished altogether.

The paintings focus on cropped glimpses, impeding any complete picture. They look out the back door, or approach a bookshelf from one angle, then another. Windows are too bright to see the view outside. These fragments have the subjective quality of finite moments of attention or memory. Spending hours in the same place together, the inhabitants remember completely different scenes and events taking place there.

By recording a space, Livensberger records traces of events: compressed, partial, forgotten, mute. Her attention to windows, reflective surfaces, and cropping as metaphoric vehicles for this type of fugitive memory continue themes present in her previous work.

Beth Livensberger has recently exhibited in New York City and Seoul. She lives and works in Queens, and is currently Visiting Assistant Professor at SUNY Purchase. She holds a B.F.A. from The Cooper Union, and an M.F.A. from Yale University.

Tomato House was born when R. Bird and M. Thurber purchased 301 Saratoga Ave., Brooklyn, in 2010, in a bid to escape the fiendish NYC rental market. They turned the formerly vacant storefront into an alternative art space and began a program of exhibitions, screenings, and community events.

Gallery hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11:00 - 5:00 and by appointment. For more information please contact Rebecca Bird at 347-770-7813.