

ROB TUFNELL
AT
47 BEDFORD STREET
LONDON WC2E 9HA

EDWARD KAY
'THE PRIVATE LIFE OF PAINTINGS'
7 APRIL – 6 MAY 2023

Edward Kay presents a series of new paintings depicting the backs of painted canvases.

Here and elsewhere, Kay's interest is not necessarily in the subject but the practice of painting itself and the process of producing and reproducing images. Employing what he describes as 'a cliché associated with trompe l'oeil painting' he 'over-attends to the constituent parts of the depicted object' to provide a framework in which to explore the media of painting and, more specifically, colour. With this in mind he makes a loose comparison between these absurd, comic pictures and American colour field painting of the 1950s and 60s.

Kay's subject follows a lineage that began with Flemish painter Cornelis Norbertus Gijsbrechts' 'Reverse of a framed painting' created in 1670 for the Royal Danish Kunstkammer. This painting was originally displayed as if abandoned, leaning against a wall in the entrance hall. It was perhaps an attempt to amuse his patron Christian V who was less interested in art preferring, in his own words, 'hunting, love-making, war and maritime affairs.'

Kay's paintings are at once iconoclastic and reverent, appearing to follow a Good Friday tradition of covering images or turning paintings to face the wall.

Opening Reception, Friday 6 April, 18.00 – 21.00
Exhibition open Saturdays 12.00 – 18.00 and by appointment
For further information please contact mail@robtufnell.com