

The background is an abstract painting with a warm color palette of oranges, yellows, and reds. There are several dark, expressive brushstrokes in black and dark blue, some of which are thick and textured. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and emotional intensity.

TOM POLO

of defence and doubt

give me a
minute or
gimme a
lifetime
(sister spotty)



soft secrets,
tender facts



Blue
Bottoms
(practice
makes
perfect)



any way
either way
(highlighter
hand)



stoop
swoop
(mine is yours)



and I know
nothing
(huge hat)



with
red relief



of defence
and doubt



better
balance
(lines are lies)



strong
shadows,
between
blinds



there's
a method
to my
madness
(LL)



sway
(dumb
seduction)



all paintings
2018
acrylic and Flashe on canvas
60 x 50 cm

photography: Jessica Maurer

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of defence and doubt

Tom Polo

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Tom Polo (b. 1985, Sydney Australia) uses painting and painted environments to explore how conversation, doubt and gesture are embodied within abstracted acts of portraiture. Frequently incorporating text and figurative elements, his works draw upon acute observations, absurdist encounters, personal histories and imagined personas. An ongoing interest across his practice is the emotional and performative relationships between people within social, theatrical and psychological space.

Polo holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons. Class 1) and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of New South Wales Art & Design. Since 2007, he has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Australia and internationally.

Recent projects include: *Meditation on a Bone*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, VIC (2018); *Primavera* 2017, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, NSW (2017); *(These Things) Tell Me More About You*, Mornington Peninsular Regional Gallery, Mornington, VIC (2017); *Looking at Me Through You*, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney (2017); *Emotional Patrol*, STATION, Melbourne (2017); *Painting. More Painting*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, VIC (2016); and *What Goes On Here*, Spectrum Now, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (2016).

Polo was awarded the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship in 2015 and completed residencies at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris and ACME Studios, London in 2016 and Artspace, Sydney in 2017.



Galerie Transit Mechelen