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A Place for Everything
Bronson Smillie

12 FEBRUARY TO 26 MARCH, 2023

A Place for Everything, Bronson Smillie's first exhibition at the gallery, articulates the artist's ongoing collaboration with decommissioned materials in contempt of their function and toward their aura.

The alphabetical, the chronological, the notational and the serial are methods by which disparate symbolic elements harmonize on a line or grid to convey meaning. Smillie makes a metaphor of these methods, spinning symbols from pre-existing auction-lot and street-side things to conspire with the grid and its image-making potential.

In *Debris Flow Bungalow* (2022), *Hotel* (2023), and *Duplex* (2023), pestled, pastel postage aggregate buzzes in the dust that collects our inventory, shaping a new field of objects once tasked to store stuff. Cassette tapes and letter presses are but media's memory. Within these containers, as well as on found industrial ledger papers, Smillie charts color and form as topographical arrangements. Notation becomes a song.

Footnotes and asterisks buttress the body of language, pointing us elsewhere, or at least close by, for further explanation. Annotation in this sense explains the artist's mode of making: treating the existing elements of an object as opportunities for deeper extrapolation: the volume of glass coffee decanters, a little drawer, a faded settee. Rags now beckon language and felt pads mark-make. Poet Rosemary Flutur recently observed of Smillie's hand as "tender like his intervention, which is less a dismantling than a delicate adjustment."

Bronson Smillie (b.1992, Calgary, Alberta) currently lives and works in Montréal, Canada and holds a BFA in Painting and Drawing from Concordia University. Solo presentations include *Tempo 85*, Espace Maurice, Montréal, Canada (2022); NADA New York, with april april (2022); and *Forever is Closing in*, MoMAPS311, Ottawa, Canada (2019). Group exhibitions include AXENÉO7, Gatineau, Canada (2022); Petrohradská Kolektiv, Prague, Czechia (2021); Five AM, Calgary (2019); Untitled Arts Society, Calgary (2018); and Eastern Bloc, Montréal, Canada (2017), among others. Smillie was recently awarded the ARTCH Emerging Artists Grant.

