From Painting On Top of Itself (Part Four)
Tarn McClean, David Thomas, Mike Zahn
Toowoomba Regional Gallery
Queensland, Australia
April 2019



Mike Zahn
Four Futures, 2019
Graphics Interchange Format (GIF)
2MB 1000 x 563
Alpha Channel
Preview (Default)
One of twenty-two frames

Mike Zahn is an American artist with a history of painting in the non-objective field. His inquiries into reductive painting are often combined with an interest in visual culture, questioning ideas of originality, appropriation, and economic systems of exchange. It is at these crossroads of conceptual investigation and technical application that his work takes different forms beyond the traditional painting surface. These digital prints are twenty-two stills form Zahn's video work, a GIF titled

Four Futures, 2019. The frames, each with slight variations, have for this exhibition been printed by default instead of being played on a monitor in their standard format. This gesture associates painting with various forms of picture-making, in terms of mobility and its relationship to matters of substrate or support. Though this alternate choice of display, Zahn encourages the viewer to consider how images are visualized in a culture dominated by various digitized formats.