

from *Post-Performance Painting*

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Mousse Magazine #66

February 2019

moussemagazine.it



Mike Zahn

*Dennis*, 2015

Acrylic and acrylic on canvas

60 x 45 inches

*Yep Yep Yep etc.*, 2015

Acrylic and acrylic on canvas

108 x 238 inches

*Base Blocks Brown Boxed Babe*, 2015

Acrylic on MDF

Dimensions variable

*The Crayon Miscellany*, 2015  
OMI International Art Center, Hudson  
Installation view

Mike Zahn captures images on his mobile which are framed by the iconography of the device. The way he employs these default signs marks an intention which requires the making the 'whole' as a painting, reflecting Walter Benjamin's opinion that advanced art either destroys genre or creates a new one of its own.



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In a recent large work, Zahn's emoji paintings, hung flatly on the wall, appear even more flat and definitively painted relative to a group of trompe l'ceil cardboard boxes placed on the floor in front of them. These volumes thus become decoys placed by the artist in a performative act. They aren't 'real' objects, but props, and therein the whole itself may be understood as a set. In doing so, Zahn deludes our senses: What is actual, and what is its representation? This plays with consciousness in states of being in and out of structure, and instills doubt as to what's thought to belong to the digital, and what to the analog. "Perhaps in addressing 'the whole' I can find a new genre, and open a door onto a post=performative type of painting", says the artist.