

# M+B

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## EDGAR BRYAN *Rodeo*

March 5 – April 2, 2022

### Opening Reception

Saturday, March 5 from 6 to 8 pm  
612 N Almont Drive, Los Angeles

**M+B** is pleased to present *Rodeo*, its first exhibition of new paintings by Edgar Bryan. The show will be on view at the Almont location, March 5 through April 2, 2022, with an opening reception on Saturday, March 5 from 6 to 8 pm.

Edgar Bryan's paintings are imbued with moments of vulnerability and a sense of light-hearted honesty. Known for work characterized by a self-effacing sense of humor, Bryan's process centers on a layered materiality and a well-developed sense of color, moving back and forth between a comical ineptitude and masterful virtuosity. Bryan updates classic forms of still-life and self-portraiture with irreverence and a highly finessed color palette replete with domestic objects and pop-cultural motifs. Often working from the standpoint of the clown or the fool, as in *La Commedia dell'Arte's* Pierrot character, Bryan stages scenes that introspectively meditate upon the idea of the failed artist, lending the depths of self-reflection an air of comic relief. Each canvas possesses a theatrical quality – layers of frozen action and interaction absorb one another, condensing into logically self-contained narratives. Bryan's paintings center process over content: games, thought experiments, and self-imposed assignments create an initial impetus, guiding the ensuing flow of rich colors and characters. These works offer no concrete arguments or overdetermined statements. Rather, each canvas becomes a pretext for introspection, inviting the viewer into a world which at once both familiar and prickly, open-hearted and gently self-deprecating.

In Bryan's newest series of works, the image of the horse saddle looms large. A William Copley saddle painting provided Bryan with an initial spark of fascination, drawing him toward the following question: what formal role could the saddle occupy in his own painterly universe? Stripping away what did not satisfy his interests - the horse, the stable, etc., Bryan was left with a conundrum - how or on what will the saddle be mounted. The solution he arrived at brings these works into an ambitious contemporary space - nude men take to the ground, propped up on all fours, their faces disappearing off stage. Each body is mounted by a large leather saddle, some ornate, baroquely designed, some Spanish style, some western American, in every case the machismo associated with the cowboy is flipped on its head and recontextualized in a space of soft domesticity. Wide swaths of bright acrylic paint are brought to life through the supplemental addition of deeply dramatic oils, producing drips

# M+B

and collisions that draw the viewer's eye to the painting's materiality. These works bathe in a Magritte-like sensibility, uncanny juxtapositions of humor and degradation creating an inviting space for self-reflection. With these saddle works, Bryan suspends common cultural symbols in a state of inverted disbelief, employing strangely humorous renderings as a tool for examining faith and failure in the context of self-realization.

**Edgar Bryan** (b. 1970, Birmingham, AL) received his BFA from The Art Institute of Chicago in 1998 and his MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2001. Recent solo and group exhibitions include *Café Opera*, Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles, *Edgar Bryan's Paranoid Counterpoint Blues*, Grifter, New York; *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, Museum of Contemporary Art Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles; *Paradise*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles; *Takashi Murakami's Superflat Collection*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama; *the love gang*, Regen Projects, Los Angeles; *Drunk vs. Stoned 2*, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York; *The Undiscovered Country*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; *Hello, My Name Is...*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; *Snapshot*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, among others. His work can be found in the collections of the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; and Museum der Moderne, Salzburg. Edgar Bryan lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

Location:	<b>M+B</b> , 612 North Almont Drive, Los Angeles, California 90069
Show Title:	Edgar Bryan: <i>Rodeo</i>
Exhibition Dates:	March 5 – April 2, 2022
Opening Reception:	Saturday, March 5, 6 – 8 pm
Gallery Hours:	Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm, and by appointment
Social Media:	@mblosangeles @edgr_b

For all inquiries, please contact [info@mbart.com](mailto:info@mbart.com).