

# RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC  
515 WEST 26TH STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10001  
212 397 0742  
RYANLEEGALLERY.COM

## Tim Braden

### *Solo Presentation*

Armory Show 2020, Booth P28, Pier 94  
March 5-8, 2020, Preview March 4

RYAN LEE is pleased to present a solo exhibition of paintings by Tim Braden. The booth will include a new body of work by the contemporary British artist that blurs the lines between craftsmanship and the fine arts.

In this new series, Braden pays homage to the often overlooked and marginalized traditions of craftsmanship. Suffused with warm Maghrebian colors, Braden's paintings direct attention to the instrumental role craftsmanship played in the formation of modern aesthetics and visual culture.

In a nod to eras and movements in which craft was integrated into the elusive and frequently inaccessible world of the fine arts (such as the Gesamtkunstwerk era, the William Morris and Arts and Crafts generation, the Bauhaus School, or the American Black Mountain College, among others), Braden highlights craftsmanship's invaluable importance in his own practice. He directs his viewer's eye to consider painting as a craft in and of itself, thus eliminating within his work the classic delineations drawn between the fine arts and so-called "common" creative endeavors. "As an artist, the market still needs to distinguish you from the lowly maker. My daily activity is simply that—making things with my hands and trying to coordinate my hands and my eyes," Braden explains.

The hierarchical distinction between crafts and the fine arts have traditionally been entrenched in class structures and gendered ideas of creativity. Historically, only those lucky enough to fit within a certain intersection of privilege could hope to ever be considered a "true" artist in the eyes of society. If one fell outside of this structure—due to class, gender or opportunity, one's work was generally relegated to the so-called "lowly" category of crafts.

"There is a knowledge and appreciation of the provenance of design like never before," Braden maintains. "But still not really an appreciation of the maker." The Whitney Museum of American Art's *Making Knowing: Craft in Art, 1950–2019* highlights a burgeoning practice of looking at the handmade rather than lofty conceptual frameworks of the "fine arts." Though an era of appreciation for craft and design is beginning, art schools still feel the need to perpetuate the distinctions between art and craft.

RYAN LEE's booth will feature a selection of Braden's figurative paintings showcasing seamstresses, weavers, and ceramic glazers portrayed in various states of abstraction, alongside fully abstracted works designed to emulate the brightly-colored patterns of Berber-style textiles. Braden celebrates individual crafters at work, while also integrating their labor into his imagery, thus effectively weaving tapestries out of paint.

# RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC  
515 WEST 26TH STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10001  
212 397 0742  
RYANLEEGALLERY.COM

**Tim Braden** (b. 1975 Perth, Scotland) is a British artist whose practice centers on a deep exploration of looking and what that means, shifting between abstract and figurative painting to explore how one mode operates within the other. He works in both painting and sculpture, incorporating various different techniques and materials across media. In these experimentations with different types of paint, support, and application to explore subtle shifts in space, mood and tone, Braden's work is ultimately drawn from a close reading of his environment and an attempt to depict the act of looking at things. He is continuously looking and re-evaluating his own work in progress to align these observations, and he often combines patches of color and light to produce scenes that recall both the specificity of personal experience and nostalgia for another time and place.

In 2018, Art/Books published *Looking and Painting*, a fully illustrated monograph on Braden. The book featured work created over the past decade, including many never-before-seen paintings and new texts by Jennifer Higgie (editor of Frieze magazine), Christopher Bedford (director of the Baltimore Museum of Art) and Dominic Molon (contemporary art curator at RISD).

Braden received his MA from Ruskin School of Fine Art at Oxford University and attended Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam. Braden has exhibited at Baibakov Art Projects, Moscow; Gemeentemuseum, The Hague; the Goethe Institute, New York; Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin; Kunstneres Hus, Oslo; Museum Van Loon, Amsterdam; Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam. His work is held in the collections of Ashmolean Museum, UK; Minneapolis Institute of Art, MN; Nederlandse Bank, Amsterdam; Pembroke College, UK; Rhode Island School of Design, RI; Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, UK; and Zabłudowicz Collection, UK. He lives and works in London, UK.