



Installation view Massimo De Carlo, London

Rob Pruitt
"Therapy Paintings"

Massimo de Carlo
24.11. – 30.1.2015

When Rob Pruitt goes to therapy he likes to distract his mind from the subject at hand. The result is endless notebooks of scribbles from the subconscious. Here the artist brings them public, enlarged and printed on canvas, opaque, and a trifle sad. They invite the rather distasteful occupation of the amateur psychoanalyst in the viewer, who wonders whether following that stray squiggle may lead to some great insight into the artist's psyche. We wonder in vain of course, for these are impenetrable works of abstraction. Accompanying the paintings, a small gang of china cats look out through the gallery's window or curl up impassively throughout the show. Pruitt buys the cats from eBay and they sit in his painting studio. As he and his assistants go about their daily work, they use the felines to wipe their brushes, gradually giving them a fine fur of paint flecks. The remediating process of psychotherapy is thus explicitly complemented by the process of making. You get the feeling that for Pruitt, art and therapy have similar aims.