

cura.

Paul Cowan



For his second solo exhibition at Clifton Benevento, American artist Paul Cowan presents a new series of works. A large painted wall, resembling the setting of a theater stage, occupies the center of the gallery; one side of the wall is infused with a bergamot essential oil and the other with a bergamot perfume oil. A new series of white monochrome paintings, including *Untitled (flower painting she crawled into)*, *Untitled (possessed painting)* and *Untitled (heart painting with floor lamp)* (all works 2014), bear minimal trace of their interaction with the mimes that the artist has invited to paint them. Seemingly blank and all alike, the paintings lead viewers to use their unique set of visual vocabulary to conjure the images proposed by the titles. Colorful bistro furniture extends the composition off the canvas and into the space. One seat is intermittently held for *Untitled (Man on phone #1)*, in which a background actor carries on a silent conversation on his phone with someone somewhere else. The exhibition plays on the imaginative power of the audience, who is invited to take on an active and creative role in the definition of the meaning of the works on show.

Paul Cowan
Clifton Benevento, New York
Through December 20