

# STATION

## **Spring 1883 - Tom Polo**

The Hotel Windsor

14th — 17th August 2014

For *Spring 1883* Station will be presenting a solo display of new works by Sydney based artist Tom Polo. Known for adopting various media—installation, photography, performance—it is Polo's paintings that are the most emblematic, and it is these that will be displayed within the grand surroundings of the Windsor suite.

For Polo this 'groundedness' within painting acts as an entry point to be used and then reinterpreted within other media; it is vis-à-vis Polo's paintings that the viewer is admitted to a larger work, that of the encumbering space. Here within suite 118, the viewer coexists with the paintings, creating a dialogue with them, performing with them, and equally connecting them with a newly created social space.

This new series of paintings continue with Polo's ongoing exploration of portraiture, infused with themes of humour, anxiety, and failure—or more loosely, the human condition, these works create a tension between that which is set and clear, against the unknown, uncanny and uncertain. Their inclusion of various tropes is juxtaposed by the environment of the painter, by the social spaces and the recognition of being within that space, whereby acquiring the gaze of the artist. Depicting moments and arrangements that are both truths and fictions, that are glimpses of partial forms and of an obscured totality.

These emotional changes and tensions find their way into the materiality of Polo's works, with flowing gestural marks, varying textures, bold line making, and flat colour, concurrently working with the partial, surreal, formed yet formless, obscured figures and objects found within the paintings borders.

Polo's works will be in stark contrast to their surrounds yet fully engaged with the space and viewer, providing an even greater insight into these stylised yet intellectual, playful and emotional artworks, all while delving further into the human condition of artist and viewer.

—Jack Willet