



Anthony Iacono

Edge Play: Recent Drawings - The Spite Haus

November 12 - December 11, 2022

The Spite Haus presents *Edge Play*, an exhibition of recent drawings by Anthony Iacono, a New York based artist who works primarily in collage from painted papers. Influenced by the aesthetics of print and posters, Iacono depicts queer figures in seemingly mundane scenarios that are offset with coded language and suspense. In this group of new drawings, he focuses on objects, and magnifies into the anonymous figure for a zoomed in perspective on the body. Though we never explicitly see skin, the body is implied through garments and accessories.

All the works in this show are no larger than a playing card. Their intimate scale may recall eighteenth century miniatures made for loved ones- a partner's eye painted onto a brooch, a pair of breasts in a discreet locket, some would carry a snip of woven hair on a pin to remember their beloved. The Philadelphia Museum of Art has several examples of these miniatures that were originally intended for private viewing. Iacono depicts belt buckles, watches and winged tipped shoes in graphite- this grayscale makes for a precarious night time setting. Different wrist watch drawings read the same time, suggesting a couples meeting time. Fastened buckles cling taught onto forms, where belts become watches and wrists become waists. Sharp edged razor blades and pencil sharpeners signal to Iacono's tools in his collage process.

At first glimpse of the show title, these drawings seem like they might need a safe word. "Edge play" is defined as a kind of swordplay where the edge (rather than the point) is employed; or any sexual activity involving the risk of physical harm. Many scenarios come to mind. Initially, some of these works appear unassuming or even commercial. But these could not pass for ads- something else is going on here. Are these blades evidence from a crime scene? Belt and sock, remnants found at a cruising site? These drawings tell a story of anticipation.

Anthony Iacono (b.1987, Nyack, NY) received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York and MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, Sculpture + Extended Media in Richmond, Virginia. He attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2013 and has been an artist in residence at the Museum of Art and Design in NY, Sharpe-Walantes Studio Program, LMCC Workspace, and ISCP. He has had solo exhibitions at PPOW Gallery, The Approach, Capsule Shanghai, and Marinaro Gallery where he is represented. In 2017 he was a recipient of the Toby Devan Lewis Fellowship Award. He currently lives and works in New York.