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‘Mediation Inc.’ by Michael Stamm at DC Moore Gallery, New York

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"Lovers," 2017 Oil, acrylic and flashe on linen 57 x 43 inches
(DC Moore Gallery, New York)

DC Moore Gallery is hosting “Mediation Inc.,” first solo exhibition of 15 paintings by American artist Michael Stamm at its New York venue.

As the boundary between personal and political continues to blur, the goal of living one’s best life, of wellness and happiness is at once a fraught

battleground for cultural politics and an uncharted mess of ambivalent desires. Drawing at once from design, literature and autobiography, Michael Stamm probes the need for genuine human relationships in a world that is somehow both interconnected and deeply alienated. Exploring themes of identity, physical and spiritual wellness, self-actualization and self-doubt, Stamm's creations seem to be oscillating between abstract contemplation and self-conscious confession. In this exhibition, there are eight paintings dealing with single session with a therapist, presumably a reflection of his own experience with his therapist, the averted figure of subjects in various dresses. The intricately designed jewelry shown in the paintings reflect his childhood passion for jewelry making. In the painting "Causes" (2017), the words "causes cause causes to cause causes" are spread out covering a glass of water into which a pair of hands stir an Alka-Seltzer tablet with a spoon, which causes effervescence, as if the words effervesce. In "Tincture" (2017), medicinal flowers: chamomile, lavender, passion flower and St. John's Wort, along with a ginseng root, float within a glass vessel signifying nature's gift to humankind in the form of alternative medicine.

Michael Stamm was born in 1983 and was raised in Evanston, Illinois. He received his BA from Wesleyan University and an MA in English Literature from Columbia University. Thereafter, he got MFA from New York University in 2016. He has also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Stamm's first solo exhibition "Just Like This Please" was showcased at Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York, in 2016. His work has been included in various group exhibitions namely, Underdonk, Brooklyn, and Galerie Tobias Naehring, Leipzig. Residencies include the Mountain School of Arts, Los Angeles (2017) and Yaddo (2016), and the Vermont Studio Center (2016), where he was awarded the John Imber Painting Fellowship. The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

“Mediation Inc.” is being showcased through February 3, 2018, at DC Moore Gallery, 535 W 22nd St, New York, NY 10011, USA.

For details, visit: <http://www.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide/dc-moore-gallery/overview>