

Kerlin Gallery

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Art School 36, Paul Winstanley.

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

Painter Paul Winstanley Captures Empty Artists' Studios on Canvas

Looking to art students for inspiration, Paul Winstanley paints their empty studios

British artist Paul Winstanley's "Art School" paintings, now on view at the Mitchell-Innes & Nash gallery in Manhattan, take their inspiration from his own photographs of art-student studios left empty for the summer months.

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Art School 38.

Though imitative of photographs, these delicately realist works are full of painterly depth and texture. Plush grays and downy whites lend the scenes a soft, comfortable, well-worn feeling; the studios are empty and bare, monastic even, but never austere. Signs of craft and toil mark the floors, walls, tables, and chairs. In one piece, a bright orange surface—wall or canvas?—is so close it is almost menacing, an explosion of energy cutting off our view of the serene studio beyond.

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Art School 31, 2013.

This tight cropping obscures depth and angles: Floors bleed into walls, art bleeds into floors, walls bleed into windows. Hazy summer light floods through grand windows and over partial walls. The spaces appear ethereal and dreamlike, ideal for thinking, imagining, and creating—and hard to leave behind, even for summer.

Alexa Lawrence
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