

# Storage Solutions

Scott Young

04.05 - 01.07.2023

*V.O. Curations*

## Storage Solutions

Scott Young excavates images, materials and motifs from a variety of sources, spanning from art history to design and fashion. His deceptive paintings sit comfortably between image and object, the domestic and the industrial, the decorative and the pragmatic. Borrowing techniques from 19th-century still-life painting, his works contain resonances of past image worlds while simultaneously creating new constellations, to propose a painterly vocabulary strongly informed by our (post-)digital condition.

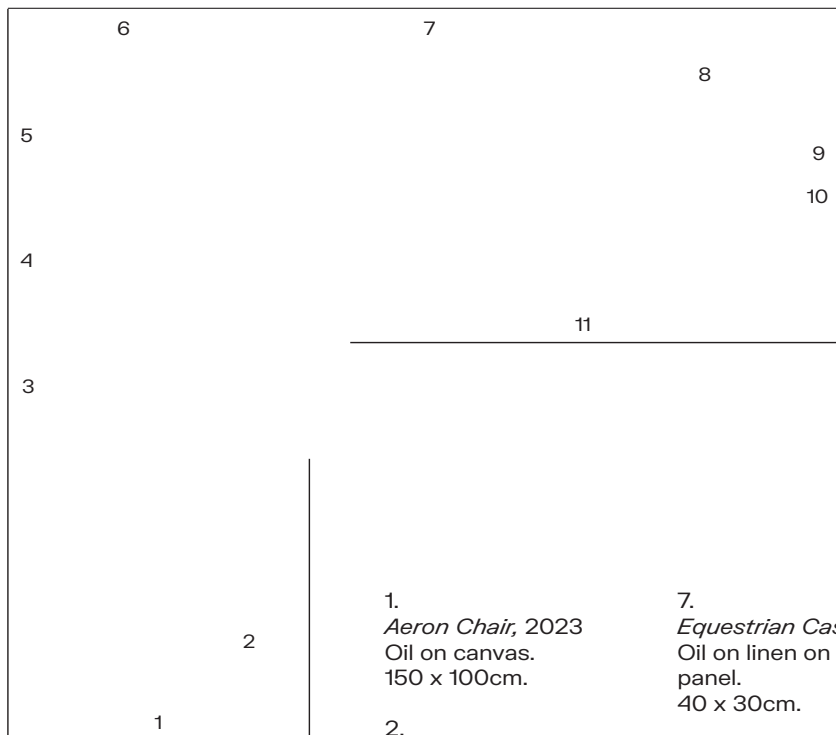
The title of the show derives from Scott's interest in mid-century interior aesthetics and storage solutions. Aligning modernist design promises with the idea of painting as an alleged storage "solution", the exhibition poses questions around the medium's relevance in today's climate and the infrastructures from which it arises.

Scott's fascination with George Nelson's storagewall, a modular storage unit crafted to store "new media" in 1950s households, stems from the interior designer's pragmatic design philosophy, partially influenced by his interest in early computing. In light of the burgeoning information age, the storagewall reimagined the domestic as a 'data space' (Lynn Spiegel). Inspired by Nelson's approach and against the backdrop of our data-driven image worlds, Scott combines "old" and "new" media to explore the domestication of technology through storage solutions.

Containing something for future use not only underpins his series of works but also their context of creation: 56 Conduit Street. For the artist, the building itself doubles up as a storage device – a container whose history and aesthetic features inform and frame the motifs of his works. In 1844, the military ornament

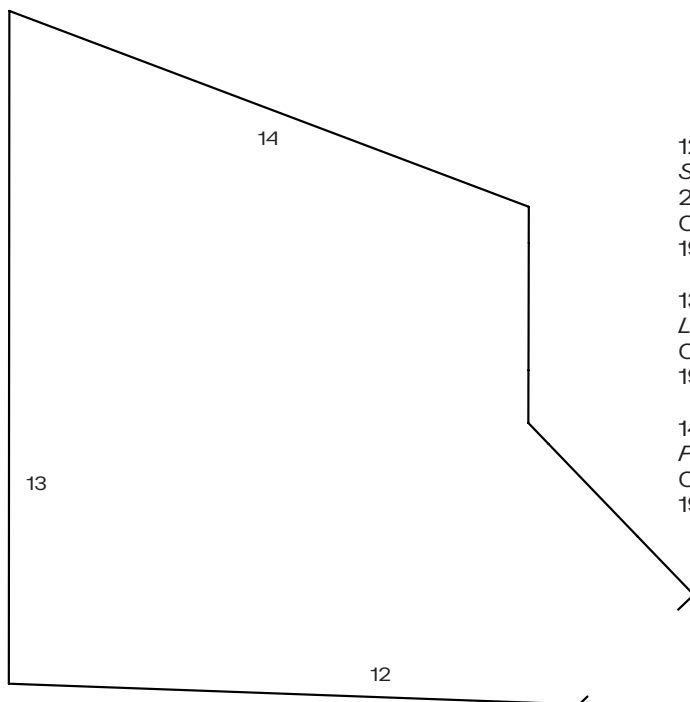
maker Jennens & Co. opened their business here, and a century later, it served as flagship store to the clothing brand Alexon. Scott alludes to this historical constellation with deceptively realistic details of blouses, military buttons, buckles, bows, skirts and other company stock sourced from eBay. The artist borrows from the iconic marble and wood paneling installed throughout the 56 Conduit Street building, which operate as framing devices to the motifs. Wheels, hinges and other hardware let his works sprawl beyond their frames, suspending them between image and object, sculpture and painting. A burning shoe, a seductive gas tank, and a life jacket subtly negotiate a painterly space between (still) life and death. They refer to an episode from Scott's family history, the tragic passing of his great-great-great grandfather, a miner in Butte (Montana), who died in a shaft explosion on New Year's Day in 1904.

Scott's exploration of the sculptural qualities of painting continues on the second floor. Using William Pahlmann's electric design principles as the departure point, the immersive walkable tableau lets the viewer travel back in time. Framed by contrasting wallpapers, a carpet and curtain, Scott's paintings mix Alexon's 80s clothing and mid-century cabinets with elements and textures from the building's history. The immersiveness of his installation is paralleled with our experience navigating an increasingly frameless digital reality. Scott's paintings negotiate their condition in this realm, reaching beyond themselves. They become containers of memories, miners of histories and markers of time. His works interrogate the elements they contain, the materialities they bring to the fore and the narratives they store.



1st Floor Gallery

1.  
*Aeron Chair, 2023*  
Oil on canvas.  
150 x 100cm.
2.  
*Napolean Dolly, 2023*  
Oil on linen, castor wheels.  
25 x 20 x 6cm.
3.  
*Storage Unit Two, 2023*  
Oil on linen.  
170 x 50cm.
4.  
*Storage Unit One, 2023*  
Oil on canvas.  
170 x 50cm.
5.  
*Storage Unit Three, 2023*  
Oil on canvas.  
170 x 50cm.
6.  
*Apex Law, 2023*  
Oil on linen.  
50 x 70cm.
7.  
*Equestrian Case, 2023*  
Oil on linen on oil on panel.  
40 x 30cm.
8.  
*Vert de Mer Dolly, 2023*  
Oil on canvas, castor wheels.  
60 x 60 x 10cm.
9.  
*Cassel Earth Tank, 2023*  
Oil on canvas.  
190 x 100cm.
10.  
*Chrome Tank, 2023*  
Oil on canvas.  
190 x 100cm.
11.  
*Brown Leather Life Jacket, 2023*  
Oil on canvas.  
100 x 70cm.



12.  
*Sienna Blue Di-Noc*,  
2023  
Oil on canvas  
190 x 70cm.

13.  
*Linen Cabinet*, 2023  
Oil on canvas.  
190 x 100cm.

14.  
*Pahlmann*, 2023  
Oil on canvas.  
190 x 140cm.

**Scott Young** (b. Seattle, US) is interested in the strange and uncanny relationships we project on objects and possessions. His paintings are a contemporary re-envisioning of still life and vanitas, where objects and motifs with contentious social significance are carefully placed into coded dialogues.

Young received a BA in Philosophy & Aesthetics from The Evergreen State College and an MFA from Goldsmiths University of London (2022), after taking a six-month hiatus (2020) to study traditional decorative painting techniques at Van der Kelen Logelain, Brussels. Past exhibitions include: The Artist Room (London); Florence Trust (London); Art Exchange Gallery at University of Essex, Des Baines (London), and Christie's.

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**Weds - Sat, 11am - 6pm**  
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