

Dustin Hodges,  
*Establishing Shot*  
19 Dec., 2019—2 Feb., 2020  
4 Herald Street, London

Soft Opening is pleased to present Dustin Hodges' first solo show in London, *Establishing Shot*. The exhibition presents two works from an ongoing series, titled *Lepidoptera*, in development since 2016. In this series, lions and butterflies repeat in various configurations across numerous works. The genesis for these motifs and indeed the entire series is *Papillons*, a painting from c. 1910 by French Symbolist artist Odilon Redon (1840–1916) wherein a kaleidoscope of butterflies hover around a pile of rocks that in its formation oddly appears to resemble the outline of a lion.

In *Establishing Shot*, a single lion painting is accompanied by an architectural study of a historic house. Built in 1883 in New Castle, New Hampshire in the United States by architect Edmund M. Wheelwright and known as “Kelp Rock”, the private residence no longer exists in its original construction. For Hodges, including this building engages with cliches associated with constructing a setting in filmmaking, where an “establishing shot” sets up the context for the scene ahead by establishing the scene’s geography. By juxtaposing this building with his leonine protagonist, the artist involves the lions in human dramatics. Hodges’ *Lepidoptera* series observes the premise that each work represents a single frame from an animated film. Undermining filmic cliché, Hodges approaches his series resisting sequential narrative order: lions stretch, sleep and rest in various poses as butterflies appear and disappear from canvas to canvas and occasionally an architectural construction disrupts the succession. Evading narrative order affords Hodges the freedom to work without feeling restricted by the expectation of a culmination point or end to the story.

Soft Opening,

List of Works,  
*gallery, clockwise...*

*Lepidoptera xxxvii*, 2019

Oil and graphite  
on linen

60 × 60 inches

(152.4 × 152.4 cm)

*Lepidoptera xxxiv*, 2019

Oil and graphite  
on linen

60 × 60 inches

(152.4 × 152.4 cm)

See Also,  
*Soft Opening Picadilly...*

*Sculpture-Lampe*

12 December, 2019—

26 January, 2020

Piccadilly Circus

Underground Station

Dustin Hodges (b. 1984) lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. He completed a BA in Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, Cambridge MA in 2006, and went on to study at Städelschule, Hochschule für Bildende Künste, in Frankfurt, 2006–2007. In 2012 Hodges received his MFA from Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson NY. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Soothing Tranquil Energy* at Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA (2018); *toke of proof krept shep'ly* at Galeria Mascota, Mexico City, Mexico (2016); *The Brown Decades* at Off Vendome, Düsseldorf, Germany (2015); *Late Stick Style* at Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, NY (2014). Selected group exhibitions include: *Soft Corners* at Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA (2018); *7 Years* at The Meeting, New York, NY (2017); *Kavita B Schmid* at Eli Ping Frances Perkins, New York, NY (2016); *Body Bildung* at Galerie Max Mayer, Düsseldorf, Germany (2015); *mutter der mann mit dem koks ist da* at Kensington Church, Montreal, Canada (2015); and *Couplings* at Taylor Macklin Gallery, Zürich, Switzerland (2014). *Establishing Shot* at Soft Opening, London, UK, is Hodges' first solo exhibition in Europe.