



Los Angeles

Miller Updegraff

At Michael Benevento, Los Angeles



Miller Updegraff: *Gutter* (2010). Courtesy of Michael Benevento

“Updegraff's debut exhibition with Michael Benevento is an elegant evolution of the artist's exploration of the power-play between subject and author, and the illusive notion of objectivity in representation. His new paintings are depictions translated from 1930s photographs of men engaged in various leisurely and consumptive activities, beautifully rendered in cobalt and silvery and slate grays. The work's complex nuances are created through the deft application of diffused washes, selective emphasis of light, and the occasional glint of sparsely scattered glitter that evoke an atmospheric, almost ghostly quality, and beget an alluring spatial and temporal distillation. Updegraff's handling of placement — both the images' situation on the canvas and the paintings' arrangement in the space — additionally underscore his theme; for his show, the gallery was fashioned into a mini-labyrinth that cleverly choreographs the viewer's orientation to the work.”

- A. McLean Emenegger