



Mike Rader Artist Statement

As I walked through the Matisse show, *The Red Studio* at MoMA, I was first struck by the painting *The Blue Window*. The shapes within the painting felt incredibly familiar, and I realized by flipping it upside down and repurposing the image it instantly fit how I assembled my paintings. *The Blue Window* made me think of what I was seeing and feeling when looking into that window. I was looking through that *Blue Window* and found *The Blue Studio*, which is now the title of the show at The Brownstone Art. *The Blue Studio* represents managing the feelings of the last few years in quarantine and the current new normal while trying to exist in the studio. I used what was around me in both energy and materials to work through the material.

I have reworked a number of books over the last 20 years to make them my own. Books can be another material available for collage, something to converse with. This show features Matisse's *Red Studio* catalog repurposed into my own catalog for *The Blue Studio*. Not so much as a nod to or against Matisse but a reaction to a curatorial process*. A wonderfully curated show that focused on one large painting. This one painting is then parsed out and dissected to examine not only the process but also the context. It becomes a reaction to color, space, and time.

The Red Studio, for me it's Blu.

**Matisse's The Red Studio was organized by Ann Temkin, The Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Chief Curator of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art, and Dorthe Aagesen, Chief Curator and Senior Researcher, SMK – National Gallery of Denmark; with the assistance of Charlotte Barat, Madeleine Haddon, and Dana Liljegren; and with the collaboration of Georges Matisse and Anne Théry, Archives Henri Matisse, Issy-les-Moulineaux, France.*