

# BRUCE HAINES

## MAYFAIR

Luke Gottelier  
HAMSTER STUDIO  
8 June - 1 July 2016

Luke Gottelier puts paintings into challenging situations with an element of performance, for instance with lit fireworks or left hanging in a deadend street to be incorporated into someone else's graffiti. For his first show in our Mayfair gallery, Gottelier presents a new sculpture 'Hamster Studio', his most ambitious work to date. Gottelier has meticulously crafted an astonishing inventory of objects familiar to the painter's studio, all at a scale suitable for the hamster-artist who inhabits the space. The piece makes reference to one of art history's most seminal gestures in his own petshop-scaled version of Joseph Beuys' coyote-based performance 'I Like America and America Likes Me' (1974). One of Gottelier's earliest series of works 'Paintings of Animals and Leisure' (2005) constitutes the studio floor around which a perfect miniature world situates itself around the hamster's hutch: paintbrushes and palette, tray and roller, kettle, stepladder and hammer, a bin of discarded canvases and perfectly scaled paintings are just a few of the three hundred individual objects that line an immaculate white cage. The artist's studio has long been a subject of paintings throughout art history, and Gottelier sees his endeavour in that tradition, recreating an environment where scared fire of creativity burns. However, 'Hamster Studio' is also, as Gottelier admits, an elaborate way to get an animal to do a poo on top of one of his paintings.