

# Text,

*MAC International*, THE METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE, BELFAST UK

Group show

[30.10.2014 – 18.12.2014]

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(Un)Real Spaces

Several of the artists exhibiting in MAC International explore aspects of physical spaces both real and imagined, spaces to look into and out of, and vantage points from which to depict experiences of the everyday.

Steven Baelen draws on his surroundings using pencil and charcoal to create ephemeral wall-based works within and across interior and exterior spaces. In this intricately considered approach to making site-specific pieces, the artist repetitively fills and erases sections of work, connecting his practice to the concept of the palimpsest, where a manuscript of text would be rubbed, scraped or washed off to make way for new writing on the original paper. This repetitive erasure and filling out of new contents onto the same old platform, as a way of recycling the never ending script, is what connects his work to particular values in the past, as much as with the most technologically up to date principles of the present moment.

[Written for 'Your Guide to MAC International 2014']