

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Guido Ignatti

Tapiados

June 30 – July 30, 2016

Opening Reception: Thursday, June 30, 7-9 pm
Free and open to the public / Artist in Attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to announce Guido Ignatti's first solo gallery exhibition in the United States. The exhibition focuses on Ignatti's characteristic "tapiados," works made of painted wood and electrical lighting that evoke contemporary urban landscapes and engage with the history of abstraction. The exhibition will include a number of *tapiados* as well as photographs that reflect on the *tapiado* genre.

Since 2012, *tapiados* have been at the center of Ignatti's practice. "Tapiado" is the Spanish word for structures – made of wood, cement, or bricks – that wall up a door or window, sealing off a passage, a room, or a building. Ignatti's *tapiados* conjure up the sensation of blockage. But they also create the feeling of an opening, of some other space behind them or in their illuminated interior. Ignatti's trompe l'oeil constructions encourage this illusion, even as they unmask themselves, revealing the bulbs and wires and thus their own artifice. They move back and forth between claiming three-dimensional depth and undoing it. This creates a rich dynamism that recalls the traditional tensions in painting between figure and ground, as well as many of the modern debates about abstract painting, and in particular about the ability of painting to serve as a representational space or as a site for sensing the possibility of a better world.

Ignatti's art brings together a number of strains in Latin American art, from the interest in beauty and pleasure that characterized 1990s *arte light* in Argentina to the "constructed precariousness" located by art historian Marí Carmen Ramírez in the *maderas*, the works in wood, by the abstract painter Joaquín Torres García.

About Guido Ignatti

Guido Ignatti was born in 1981 in Buenos Aires, where he continues to live and work. Most of his works are ephemeral, site-specific and time-based installations that explore the tensions between conceptualism and raw materiality. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Rosario and, in Buenos Aires, at the Centro Cultural Recoleta and La Ira de Dios. His work has been shown in group exhibitions in Argentina in the Espacio de Arte Fundación OSDE and the Museums of Contemporary Art in Salta and La Plata, and he has participated in exhibitions and performances in Los Angeles, Barcelona, Hamburg, and London. He cofounded and coedited the Buenos Aires-based art magazine *Sauna* (2010-2014). Ignatti's first solo museum exhibition in the US will open in July 2016 at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver.

About the Curator

The exhibition is guest curated by Patrick Greaney, professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. He curated *Heimrad Bäcker: Landscape M* at MCA Denver and *Vanessa Place: The Lawyer is Present* at BMOCA. His publications on contemporary art include the book *Quotational Practices: Repeating the Future in Contemporary Art* and essays on Eduardo Costa, Luis Camnitzer, and Hermann Nitsch.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.



Image: detail of *Período primero*, 2016, enamel on wood with fluorescent bulbs, 49.2 x 80.7 in. (125 x 205 cm)