

**Key, leaving by Jackie Anderson**



PAINTING

**IN BETWEEN**

Intermedia, Glasgow, until Thu 7 Jul ●●●●●

Absence and presence leave traces on the large and small canvases in Intermedia. Jackie Anderson and Toby Messenger exhibit the flip side of the same epistemological coin – being and nothingness suspended in the amber of paint. Anderson's portraits of people passing through her canvases could be from anywhere. The scenery is nondescript and the figures, in ubiquitous urban garbs, help to bleach out personality. 'St Enoch Square' stands out from its neighbours – a figure is double-exposed, turning round to look at itself, splicing linear time with deconstructive simultaneity. Figures become lilies, opening and closing in the sunlight. Alison Watt's crisp folds become tinted gauze that barely forms to create the specifics of a face, or is flattened out, mirroring the white walls behind the figures and corresponding with the flat support.

Rich colour and thick paint glisten on Messenger's paintings and constructions. People are missing but the pretty patterns and sculptures, the roads and buildings they have left, look better for it. 'Verge' is a mildly depressing composition, but evokes comforting memories of duvet-days, Glasgow rain and Richard Diebenkorn. Some of the pastel, charcoal and sparse pencil drawings ('Road' and 'Up from co-op car park') vibrate with emptiness and longing, yet summer sun fills the pages ripped from his sketchbooks. (Alexander Kennedy)