

White Katie, 'Settle Into Summer With These 5 Shows by Some of Our Favorite New Emerging Artists - Philip Metten at Zeno X Gallery'. www.news.artnet.com, 31 May 2019.

4. Philip Metten at Zeno X Gallery



Philip Metten, C-270219 (2019). Courtesy of Zeno X Gallery.

Seen from a distance, Phillip Metten's symmetrical collages possess an antiquated futuristic quality, like aerial renderings of imagined metropolises from the 1960s, or the circuitry of some mammoth imaginary computer, or even a space craft. This scientific, almost mechanical quality dissolves as one steps closer to discover that these works are composed of odd ends of notebook and copier paper, along with bits of abandoned cardboard architectural models. Working piece by piece, Metten painstakingly constructs these intricate three-dimensional objects. The labor of the human hand marks everything, and though composed on a mirrored vertical axis, nothing is uniform. The papers are the pale blues and pinks of administrative tasks, and flecked with glue drops, smudged with pencil marks and erasures. All in all, there is a sense of intimacy to these works, as well a permeating sense of decay, as the idea of future seems increasingly old fashioned.

"Philip Metten" is on view through June 29, 2019, at Zeno X Gallery, Godtsstraat 15, Antwerp.