

THOMAS DUNCAN GALLERY

Avant de rentrer, il faut incendier la maison.

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Because the soul is progressive, it never quite repeats itself, but in every act attempts the production of a new and fairer whole.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson, *On Art*

I can't believe it. No, I will not lie, I can easily conceive of it.

- Samuel Beckett, *Molloy*

If I do everything in my own interest, it is because the interest I have in myself comes before everything else.

- Seneca, *On Benefits*

This exhibition focuses on the evolution of certain forms of production that are realized by dismantling external elements and uniting them into an intentionally conflicted whole. This inherently schizophrenic activity therefore results in a multifarious yet not unresolved output.

The title translates to English from the French as “Before returning home you must burn down the house,” which loosely means, among other things, that engaging with oneself one requires continual processes of disassembly in an effort to form a united, cohesive self. The linguistic shift in the exhibition’s title is representative of the passage from one state of being to another, with inevitable (and intentional) slippages in implication. As such, fractured and interrupted systems are at play: disassembly/assembly, self/duality, subjectivity/influence, private/public, singularity/multiplicity. The exhibition seeks to locate itself in the fold between these states, in moments of transition and contradiction.