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Remake by Kevin Cosgrove

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Remake Kevin Cosgrove

Mother's Tankstation, Ushers Island

Workshops featured prominently in Kevin Cosgrove's standout NCAD graduation show in 2007, just as they have in his work since. *Remake*, his third solo exhibition at Mother's Tankstation, focuses on several kinds of workshop, from the relatively neat and institutional *Museum Workshop with Coats* to the personalised clutter of *Radiator Repair Workshop*. Cosgrove clearly likes the idea of a space where things are made, repaired or restored, as in the title work, featuring a vintage Austin A35. The feeling of potential and possibility is increased by the absence of people. All the elements are poised, awaiting their return.

Ideas of labour, skill, attentiveness, aesthetics, knowledge, order and chaos are bound up in subject and treatment. Technically adept and assiduous as a painter, Cosgrove is on the side of Manet and Velázquez. Like them, he only uses as much of anything – pigment, colour, detail – as it takes to get the job done. Look closely at the paint surface and it's surprising how little is there, physically, given the textural richness and conviction of the images. In *Workshop with Mirror (You Are)* it's as if he adroitly pays homage to Manet's masterpiece *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*, recasting it as, of course, a workshop.

Since 2007, he has become increasingly and rewardingly absorbed by the question of how to paint light, as seen in the paintings in *Remake. Until Nov 1, motherstankstation.com*