

# SITUATIONS

Tilley, John. "Mad Fresh", office magazine, online, March 31, 2019.

## *office*

### Mad Fresh



March 31, 2019

There is just something about fruit. A friend of mine once called it "Nature's Dessert." Apt, but still, fruit must always be approached with an appreciation for timing and mortality: eaten too soon and it's too hard and bitter, eaten too late and it's too soft and rotten. The metaphor for the human life cycle is as old as humanity itself, with that sweet spot in the middle (of perfect "ripeness") holding an ineffable power over our animal appetites.

The young artists (all under 30) displaying their work in the show, "Fresh Fruit," at SITUATIONS approach this timeless theme with curiosity and cheek. Be it the wizardly biomorphic abstractions of Justin Liam O'Brien, the ancient-art-informed figures of Felix Beaudry, the earthly delights of Kate Klingbeil, or the silly wonders of Eames Armstrong, all of the works on display tap into the concept of flesh-as-edible-plaything. It's oddly intoxicating when something as simple as a painting can make the mouth water and, simultaneously, cause the mind to reel. Perhaps it is like the first bite of a previously undiscovered fruit: sweet, strange, and immediately addicting.

*Text by John Martin Tilley*