

Estiler, Keith, *Matt Bollinger's 'Halftime' Show Proves Deep Loneliness*, HYPEBEAST, 23 May 2024

## HYPEBEAST

# Matt Bollinger's 'Halftime' Show Probes Deep Loneliness

Ash can style paintings that reflect post-pandemic attitudes.



Matt Bollinger's latest solo show at mother's tankstation in London, titled *Halftime*, examines the concept of halftime and its relevance in today's America. Traditionally, halftime is a break in sports, a moment to rest and strategize before the game continues. Bollinger expands this idea, asking whether we are in a similar pause in our lives, especially post-pandemic.

By naming his show *Halftime*, Bollinger sparks questions about the American experience. The sports metaphor encourages us to think about our aspirations and the clear outcomes of winning and losing. Are we heading towards improvement, or will we stay stuck in a cycle of unfulfilled expectations? Through his evocative Ashcan School style in his alluring compositions, Bollinger captures this American dilemma, making *Halftime* a thought-provoking exhibition.

"Using the 'stay in the zone' version, halftime; we have to ask if the best is over or worse to come – is that the same thing? Do we aggress or defend? Maybe it's a momentary, revelatory, flash of mortality at a temporal landmark, a half-way-sort-of-crises, or a too close for comfort encounter with mortality: A metaphorical speeding vehicle in abject proximity to the metaphysical rocky edge of a mountainous ravine," described the gallery in a statement.

As a whole, the idea of halftime can be pivotal or irrelevant. It might change the course of a game or maintain the status quo. You might keep winning, start losing, or turn a loss into a win. This uncertainty is central to Bollinger's work, prompting us to reflect on our current state. Are we, as Americans, in a period of quiet contentment or facing deep loneliness?

*Halftime* is on view through June 29, 2024.

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