

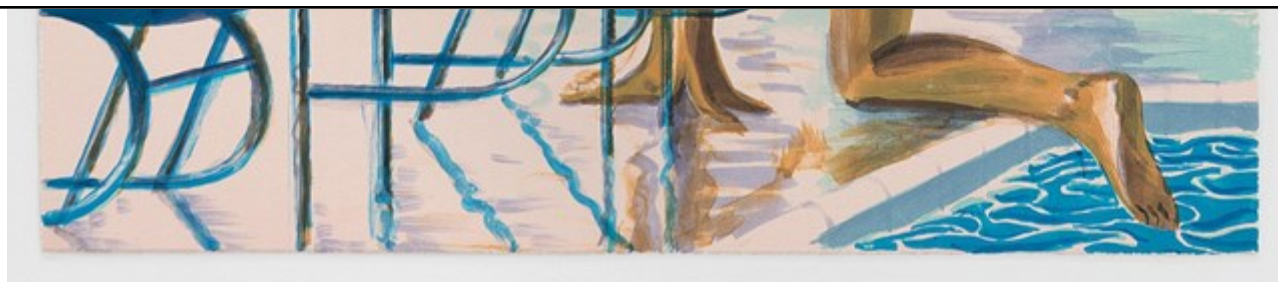
Art & Photography / AnOther Thing I Wanted to Tell You

Benjamin Senior's Geometric Portrayal of Olympic Swimmers

— August 3, 2016 —

The GB swimming team is given a brilliantly graphic spin, courtesy of the London-based artist's newest commission





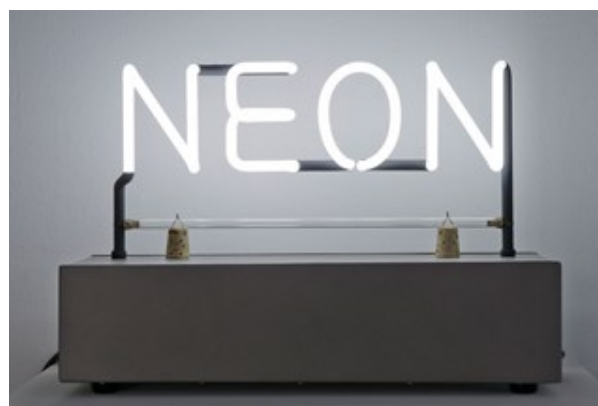
Stroke Tempo, 2016 © Benjamin Senior, courtesy of Counter Editions

Text Maisie Skidmore

"I first got interested in painting people doing exercise because it allowed me to indulge in my favourite things: drawing bodies in the midst of exercise, because that makes them abstract, and drawing abstract geometric patterns. I sort of think of the bodies as being patterns themselves. I constructed the geometric design for the wall behind the swimmers on Photoshop using quarter circles, and incorporated that into the design."

I'm quite a traditional artist really – I spend a lot of time drawing – and most of my work comes out of that. I collaborate with models who are more athletic than me, and who can offer a bit of insight into the sorts of behaviours or postures that athletes will get into while they're training. While all that's going on I'm scribbling down drawings which I can then reassemble into

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classical modern, art, which is interesting, because a lot of the history of Olympic prints stems from there as well. I suppose you'd say my work's quite nostalgic – hard-edged, very formalised. That's kind of the language that I try and draw on."



Benjamin Senior, Poolside, 2013 © The artist

Artist **Benjamin Senior**'s clean, serene paintings feel like a breath of fresh air in the comparative chaos of the digital world. He has long been fascinated with the spectacle of athleticism, transforming habits of health – running, stretching, diving or doing yoga – into reflective scenes worthy of an old 1920s poster distributed by the heath service. It follows then, that his work is a natural fit for Counter Editions' official prints for Team GB at the **Rio 2016 Olympic Games** – the

