KENISE BARNES FINE ART

WILL HUTNICK STATEMENT

My work reimagines landscape through a queer, ecologically engaged lens. I create topographical relics that translate physical and sensory environments into layered, abstract compositions. Rooted in queer ecology, as well as ideas surrounding digital and mediated spaces, my paintings challenge binary worldviews and emphasize the interconnection of sexuality, land, and lived experience.

Using paint rollers, black paint, and raw canvas, I adapt printmaking processes to generate patterns that resemble glitches, Xeroxes, and stop-motion frames. My practice begins with rubbings from personal and found objects, such as milk crates from my late father's car or the wooden walls of my studio in Sharon, Connecticut. These marks act as both residue and record. Recently, I've incorporated botanical materials - leaves, ferns, and flowers - as stencils, introducing overtly representational forms that timestamp specific moments and places.

Through this process, I investigate the poetics of fragmentation. What begins as a botanical or architectural impression often devolves into hazy forms: images on the edge of visibility. These speculative compositions offer alternate readings of landscape: constellations, memory maps, and queer futurities. In the layering of idiographic marks and textures, internal logics slowly unravel if you let them.

Will Hutnick (b. 1985) is an artist based in Sharon, CT. He received his M.F.A. from Pratt Institute in 2011 and his B.A. from Providence College in 2007. Hutnick is a 2021 New York Foundation for the Arts Artist Fellow in Painting. Solo exhibitions include: High Noon (New York, NY), McDonough Museum of Art (Youngstown, OH), Geary Contemporary (Millerton, NY), Pamela Salisbury Gallery (Hudson, NY) and Elijah Wheat Showroom (Newburgh, NY). Selected group exhibitions include: Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art (New Paltz, NY), 5-50 Gallery (Long Island City, NY), and Hollis Taggart (Southport, CT). Selected residencies include: Yaddo, Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency, Vermont Studio Center, Interlude Artist Residency, and Stove Works. From 2015-20, Hutnick was one of the Co-Directors of Ortega y Gasset Projects, an artist-run exhibition space in Brooklyn. He is currently the Director of Artistic Programming at the Wassaic Project, a nonprofit organization that uses art and art education to foster positive social change.

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