

MATT MILEY biography



Matt is a visual artist originally from the southern United States. He spent the first part of his life in Louisiana and Mississippi. Following the completion of his Master's degree in Fine Arts at Florida State University, Matt moved to New York City in 2009 to work at the School of Visual Arts. He is currently living and making art in Brooklyn. His work has been exhibited internationally and he is seeking sustained representation by galleries in the US, Europe, or Scandinavia. Matt will be moving to Stockholm, Sweden in the fall of 2013. There he will continue to build a large body of work that raises questions about how traditional structures and rigid systems hold up when critical reason is introduced into a landscape.

Segments of Matt's work are heavily influenced by his life experiences in the southern United States. More specifically, his experiences with religion, politics, and culture. Not a Christian himself, Matt is fascinated by the dichotomy in the region between old, deep rooted cultural institutions and the potentialities that exist with open philosophical inquiry and critical thinking. Early on, Matt lived with his family in Monroe, Louisiana in the northeastern part of the state. A visitor to the region would observe flat lands, cotton fields, woodlands, and bayou waters winding through the communities. The landscape is heavily wooded and the climate is subtropical with long hot summers and short mild winters. The social and cultural atmosphere resembles that of his next state of residence, Mississippi. Matt completed a Bachelor degree at Mississippi College in the central region of the state. In 2009 a Pew Research poll revealed that eight in ten people (82% of the state) say that religion is very important in their daily lives. Dialogue in the region is dominated by ideas about revelation from the Christian God, sin and repentance, neo-conservative political views, and faith.



Assimilation in the Snow
I and II

Ink and graphite on paper
183 x 305 cm

During graduate school, Matt pursued an opportunity to study in London and Amsterdam. There, he observed a complex social, cultural, and political environment. Europe bares some similarities to the southern United States but is often completely divergent. It can be said that in a place with competing ideas there tends to be more fluidity and compromise. At that time, Matt's research involved the critical reason, comparative mythology, and theory in contemporary art. This immersion into rational inquiry along with influences from contemporary German painting, layout in graphic novels, mythological schema, psychological narratives began to evolve Matt's artwork and subvert his previous, more formal background in graphic design. During his time at Florida State

MATT MILEY biography

University he built a body of thesis work that involved aspects of narrative drawing and painting mixed abstract and ambiguous segments in large scale. This work involved anthropomorphic qualities that materialize into a transparent landscape and mold or fuse through abstract and gestalt elements.

After graduate school, Matt accepted a position at the School of Visual Arts and moved to New York City. In 2010 he collaborated with a colleague in Philadelphia to generate an exhibition entitled "When She Strikes". The work involving two large large-scale 6 x 16 foot drawings, video, and found sound was exhibited in Brooklyn and Philadelphia. The exhibit is a reflection on the impact of power with references to Hurricane Katrina and military destruction. Since his move to New York City he has also been involved in building and co-directing the Pinion Gallery. The gallery was physically based in Brooklyn and hosted seven exhibitions between 2010 and 2011. It is now an organization that hosts shows in different spaces in Florida and New York.

Since living in Stockholm, Sweden since late 2013, Matt has joined the Northern European and Scandinavian art community, vigorously generating and exhibiting work in the region. He has formed a cohesive vision that incorporates extracted visual fragments from the deep south and his new home in Scandinavia. Matt recently completed a series of paintings entitled "Surface; Cataract; Inundate" involving zoomorphic and landscape features in a state of becoming or becoming undone.

SHORT FILM ON MATT MILEY