

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Brian Rattiner
Hummingbird

February 13, 2021 – March 20, 2021

Socially Distanced Opening Reception: Saturday, February 13, 2021, from 12 - 5pm

***No appointment necessary, facemask required for entry, maximum 10 people admitted at a time

Free and open to the public

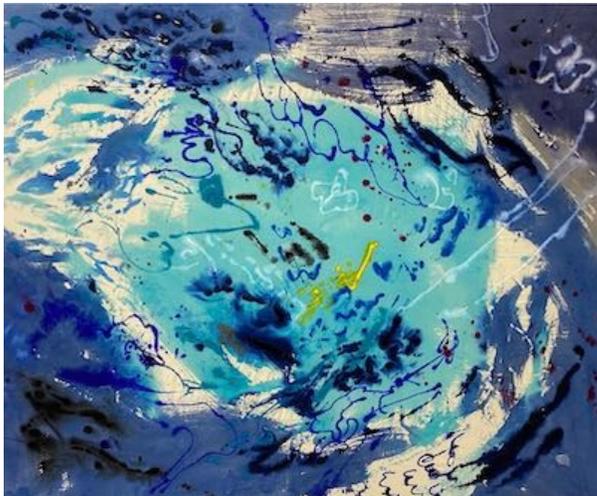


Image: Brian Rattiner, *Snow Day*, 2021, High flow acrylic, fluid acrylic, and salt on muslin, 57 x 69 in. (144.8 x 175.3cm)

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present *Hummingbird*, a solo exhibition of new works by Brooklyn-based artist Brian Rattiner.

In his large scale ethereal paintings, subdued jewel-toned color fields float untethered, reaching in wisps over shallow planes. The works comprise a range of materials punctuated with words, symbols, and manifold gestural marks, speaking to Rattiner's lyrical intuition.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Rattiner's connection to nature is splendidly nuanced. Originating from a densely populated cityscape, regular trips to his family's bungalow colony in the Catskills were an essential part of Rattiner's childhood. Years later, during the tumultuous months of 2020, extended stays at the colony spent connecting with the rhythm of nature and painting to the tune of birdsong have produced a collection of paintings that bound with color and dreamlike energy.

Fleeting moments are recorded onto Rattiner's sprawling compositions, captured in expeditious movements of the hand or swells of aqueous paint

blooms, in some cases recording textures from the crude surface of his transitory outdoor studio. Vaporous, spacious, and accentuated with playful strokes of color, Rattiner's canvases radiate with an ephemeral sense of the present, as if to capture the pulsing imagery behind one's eyelids.

Continuing the series into the winter months back in his Brooklyn studio, Rattiner infuses his connection with nature into the works, focusing on celestial elements such as the winter solstice or a snow storm. Spanning the changing seasons, Rattiner's work prioritizes beauty, movement, and the poetry of the moment over the harsh realities of loneliness and stillness.

With an adept sensitivity to color, *Hummingbird* showcases Brian Rattiner's synesthetic visual vocabulary. At a time when reality itself can feel like an interpretive negotiation, the role of the subconscious and its centrality to the human experience rises to prominence. With inspiration residing in nature's sense of boundless potential and immeasurable knowledge, Rattiner captures a sense of entropy in his works, but not without a distinctive prismatic optimism.

About Brian Rattiner

Brian Rattiner (b. Brooklyn, New York) received his BFA in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design. His work has been shown domestically at Carvalho Park, Ortega y Gasset Projects and Transmitter Gallery in Brooklyn, New York as well as Susan Eley Fine Art and the Leroy Neiman Gallery at Columbia University, in New York City. International exhibitions include Le Coeur project space in Paris, France, Anna Nova Gallery and Triumph Gallery in Moscow, Russia. Rattiner's work has been selected for multiple juried exhibitions curated by Kate Mothes, founder of the influential platform YngSpace. He has conducted residencies with the Skopelos Foundation for the Arts in Greece, the Fundación Valparaíso in Mojácar, Spain, and will be a resident at the Anderson Ranch this spring. Rattiner lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as Art in America and ARTnews, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. The New York Times hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting-edge works" and The Denver Post declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.