

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Joe Macca

Echoes in the Ether

Like the color field painters of the mid 20th century, Macca's compositions are dominated by large swaths of seamless color rendered to minimize any sign of process, such as gesture and brushwork. Unlike his Minimalist forbearers however, Macca's ostensibly abstract paintings are also representational in that they seek to capture and communicate the artist's experiences within the surrounding natural or built worlds.

Rather than using the traditional language of form to mimic or evoke visual encounters, Macca interrogates his subjects by translating them into their indexical colors. The colors that appear in this current body of work, for example, are all inspired by a single winter day. While looking out the window of his rural Oregon studio, Macca mixed upwards of one hundred swatches to match the various colors constitutive of the outside landscape. He then numbered the swatches and chose four at random to be used in each of the four quadrants of a square panel.

By using both an airbrush and brush to apply layer after layer of oil and acrylic paints, the area where the colors start to mistily intersect along the composition's central axis becomes so nebulous that one might question whether the eye is physiologically capable of grasping such a transition. The resulting sense of boundlessness and immeasurability is enhanced by the illusion that the painting continues beyond the frame of the perfectly smooth panel, which itself sits away from the wall as if floating in the ether. For the artist, these manifestations of the illimitable and the universal elicit more "private, existential questions about the ephemeral and the transient." Within the plane of existence – a space characterized by perpetual movement and expansion – nothing can ever be held in a fixed spot.

Joe Macca was born in Portland, OR in 1970. He received his BA from the University of Oregon followed by his MFA from Portland State University in 1999. In addition to showing throughout the United States, Macca's work has also been featured in *New American Paintings*, *Artweek*, *The Oregonian*, and *The Portland Mercury*.

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EDUCATION

- 1999 MFA, Painting, Portland State University, Portland, OR
1992 BA, Film, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Two Man Show, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, OR
2011 Echoes in the Ether, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 MellowDrama, PDX Contemporary Art, Portland, OR
Whispers, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2007 Slowblivion, PDX, Portland, OR
2006 Oxygen Paintings, PDX, Portland, OR
2005 Flotsam, New American Art Union, Portland, OR
2004 The Color of Under Appreciated Things, PDX, Portland, OR
2003 Night Paintings and I, Virus, PDX, Portland, OR
2001 HEDZ, PDX, Portland, OR
2000 Hypostatics, PDX, Portland, OR
Guardino Gallery, Portland, OR
1999 Stripes & Atmospheres, Gallery 114, Portland, OR
Thresholds, Autzen Gallery, Portland State University, Portland, OR

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 My Certain Fate, Pharmaka, curated by Timothy Buckwalter, LA, CA
2008 Ship It! (Mail Art Show), Ouch My Eye Gallery, Seattle, WA
Kinda Like a Buffet, PDX Contemporary Art, Portland, OR
2007 18 Painters, Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, OR
Portland? Fuck Portland! RocksBox, Portland, OR
2005 Drawing(s): 40+ artists/200works- A 25th Anniversary Exhibition,
ArtGym, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, OR
Fresh Trouble, Portland OR, Curated by Jeff Jahn
Drawing(s): A 25th Anniversary Exhibition, The Art Gym, Marylhurst
University, Marylhurst, OR
ArtSlate, Condon, OR
3rd Around Oregon Annual, Artcentric Arts Corvallis Art Center, OR

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- 2005 Next, PDX Contemporary Art, Portland OR
- 2004 Dialogue Littman Gallery, Portland State University, Portland, OR
Summer Group Show, PDX, Portland, OR
24th Annual Gender Symposium Art Exhibition, Lewis & Clark College,
Portland, OR. Curated by Barbara Bartholomew.
- 2003 Annual Juried Group Exhibit, Center on Contemporary Art (CoCA), WA
- 2000 Gallery 114, 10th Anniversary Group Exhibition, Portland, OR
A Dealer's Eye, Art Center Gallery, Clatsop Community College, OR
- 1999 Fluid Gallery, Group Exhibition, Portland, OR
Gallery 114, Group Exhibition
- 1998 Autzen Gallery, MFA Group Exhibition, Portland State University, OR

PUBLICATIONS/WEB

- 2009 "Joe Macca at PDX Contemporary," The Oregonian, Chas Bowie
- 2008 "‘slowblivion’ by Joe Macca at PDX Contemporary Art," Art Ltd., Richard
Speer, August
"Joe Macca's slowblivion at PDX Contemporary Art," PORT, Arcy
Douglass, January 22
"Joe Macca's Eye Teasers at PDX Gallery," Oregonian, D.K. Row
- 2006 "Shows of Note," Oregonian, D.K. Row, July 28
- 2005 "Joe Macca at PDX," Artweek, Andie De Luca, February
"Macca at NAAU," Portlandart.net, Katherine Bovee, July
- 2004 "The Open Studios Pacific Coast Competition" New American
Paintings, Volume 55, The Open Studios Press
- 2003 "Stretch Marks" A & E The Oregonian , D.K.Row, February 28
"Critical i",nwdrizzle.com, Jeff Jahn, March 4
"Visual Reviews", The Mercury, Chaz Bowie, February 20
- 2000 "Macca's Masterly Strokes," The Oregonian, D. K. Row, July
"Joe Macca's Hypostatics," The Portland Mercury, Camela Raymond
- 1999 "Visions of Light," The Oregonian, D. K. Row, October 29

AWARDS

- 2005 Best in Show, "ArtSlate," Condon, OR

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

COLLECTIONS

Foundation Capital, Menlo Park, CA

Blackfish Creative Marketing, Inc. Portland, OR

DLA Piper, LLP, Seattle WA

Genentech Inc., San Francisco, CA

Frederick R. Weisman Foundation, Los Angeles, CA

Price Waterhouse Coopers LLP, Portland, OR

Opus Capital, San Francisco, CA

Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, OR