

INTERSECT ASPEN 2022

Bill Saylor

For Intersect Aspen 2022, Magenta Plains presents Bill Saylor's new, large scale paintings that exemplify the full spectrum of his palette and techniques. Distinguished by an explosive use of gestural abstraction, Saylor's paintings are built up with layers of sprayed, splattered, or poured paint suggestive of chemical spills, as well as other materials such as charcoal and collage. Energetic brushstrokes and dashes of spray paint combine to form riotous, evocative compositions with "atavistic charge".¹

Drawing from an eclectic range of influences from cave painting, graffiti art, and cartoons, to Abstract Expressionism, Saylor is a cultural scavenger sifting through the detritus of civilization and the New York underground. As the critic Carlo McCormick said, "Brut, unmannered, wild as a river or heath untouched by human intervention, Saylor's paintings teach us that the act of perception as experience itself is filled with unpredictable motion and unruly emotions of life."

Immensely generative on paper, Saylor's quick and fluid automatic drawing practice informs his large scale painting series. Dense with recurring personal iconography, Saylor's works on paper and paintings demonstrate a profound engagement with environmental issues such as meteorology, natural history, and marine biology. Often populated by bizarre monsters, deformed sea creatures, and sinister skeletal figures that seem conjured from some "interim space", his work evokes the shifting specter of imminent ecological disaster.²

Saylor often begins his large canvases flat, and works outside against the elements at a summer cottage on the Delaware River in Upper Black Eddy, Pennsylvania. This site of natural beauty imbues the paintings with a personal history and makes the paintings "strange attractors"*. Saylor also works in his longtime Brooklyn loft, often moving a painting back and forth from both locations until it's final. Removed from the urban environment of New York City and set against the mountainous Colorado landscape in this art fair context, his paintings shift from offering a vibrant counterpoint to a rhythmic synchronicity with the forested surroundings.

Bill Saylor emerged from a vibrant painting scene that developed in the 1990s between a circle of Brooklyn artists who include Joe Bradley, Jeff Elrod, Chris Martin, Eddie Martinez, Katherine Bernhardt. Often fondly referred to as an "artist's artist," he has been incredibly influential to a younger generation of painters such as Josh Smith, Brendan Cass, Josh Reames, Alex Becerra, and Robert Nava. Saylor's decades-long career and authentic expressionism is a key contribution to contemporary painting. As Justine Lowe put it, "Bill Saylor is one of the last natural ones. The last wild man."

Saylor has held solo exhibitions at Magenta Plains, New York, NY; Leo Koenig Inc., New York, NY; The Journal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; and Loyal Gallery, Stockholm, SE. Two-person shows include Bill Saylor & Josh Smith at Hiromi Yoshii Gallery, Tokyo, JP; Bill Saylor & Aidas Bareikis at Shoot The Lobster, New York, NY; Bill Saylor & Donald Baechler at Makebish, New York, NY; and Mason Saltarrelli and Bill Saylor at Shrine, New York, NY. Saylor was included in Animal Farm curated by Sadie Laska at the Brant Foundation and has participated in group exhibitions at Venus Over Manhattan, NY; CANADA, New York, NY; Martos Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; MIER Gallery, Los

¹ Ann Binlot, "4 artists comment on Bill Saylor's primordial, uncanny allure," Document, October 15, 2019.

² *ibid.*

MAGENTA

PLAINS

Angeles, CA; Ceysson & Bénétière, Luxembourg and Yerba Buena Art Center, San Francisco, CA. Saylor's work was also included in Contemporary Painting curated by Alex Katz at the Colby College Museum of Art in 2004. In 2010, Saylor collaborated on the zine "Ho Bags" with Harmony Korine and he was an artist-in-residence at the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, TX. Bill Saylor lives and works in Upper Black Eddy, PA and Brooklyn, NY. His forthcoming solo exhibition with Galerie Julien Cadet in Paris, France opens in Fall 2022.