

Erik Otto

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STATEMENT

Fueled by the uncertain nature of our human existence, my artwork is about capturing the the inner workings of a personal struggle to make peace meanwhile connecting with others who share a similar goal.

Fleeting moments of change, growth, and discovery are depicted and reinvented continually in multiple forms spanning from traditional paintings to reclaimed wood installations. Through the use of reclaimed materials, I am working out a second message of renewal by giving new life to what was once discarded.

My paintings host an environment for controlled chaos -- careful construction combined with a chaotic layering process filled with intentional mistakes that give the work a visual speed. In a sense, this process represents freedom and a natural tilt of life -- the notion that things are constantly happening and becoming, most often beyond our grasp.

Images of ocean swells and free flowing clouds appear frequently symbolizing a presence of transformation and a visual balancing act between seeing a hopeful future or an impending doom. Contrasting in form, the linear and geometric shapes offer a different perspective often grounded in comparison. Signifying refuge and safety, a familiar house shape emerges in different forms within these expansive and unpredictable environments offering a sense of something tangible amidst a surreal landscape.

Recently I have taken even more advantage in the abundance of discarded material and have begun to expand my visual vocabulary inspired by its form and unique characteristics. Combining paint, wood, paper collage, and illumination I discover a dialogue that is unique to my own directly transpired by the suggestive qualities of the materials at hand. Ultimately, remaining open to the endless outcomes when translating a wide variety of mediums, my goal is to continually reinvent myself while further developing an all new way of creating and presenting my work.