

A FIELD



Byron Anway

Second Floor Gallery - Sept 2 - Nov 25, 2023

Curators Statement:

“Everything that is visible hides something that is invisible” – Rene Magritte

The invisible becomes visible in an extraordinary manner within Byron Anway's captivating new body of paintings. Through bold colors and enigmatic, yet hopeful, post-apocalyptic compositions, he constructs a surreal reality born from memories, isolation, childhood emotions, and transformation. While his images possess striking visibility, they also conceal a hidden essence, exuding an air of mystique that permeates this remarkable collection.

Life's enigmatic nature finds profound expression through Anway's artistry. In his works, he fearlessly delves into the depths of his experiences, offering a profound exploration of how paint and canvases can evoke mystery and existential questions of existence. By tapping into memories and emotions, he presents "Afield," an exhibition that serves as a resolute affirmation of an authentic voice. This significant showcase marks a transformative juncture in his artistic journey, as his previous paintings depicted crowded masses clamoring for position, while his latest creations embrace openness and a profound connection with nature.

Within a series of paintings, a landscape featuring a cascading waterfall emerges as a recurring motif, acting as a reflective symbol. This imagery derives from a vivid memory of a journey experienced by the artist. Waterfalls embody the process of letting go, cleansing, and the unceasing flow of energy and life. For Anway, these paintings embody an ongoing quest for a genuine expression, heralding a new understanding of the world—a vibrant visual proclamation brimming with optimism and embracing the winds of change.

Bio

Byron Anway is an Assistant Professor of Practice at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in the School of Art, Art History, and Design. Before teaching at the university level, Anway taught art abroad at the International School of Brussels in Belgium and American Academy Casablanca in Morocco. Among other venues, his work has been exhibited at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, NE, Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati, OH, and the Soo Visual Arts Center in Minneapolis. His work has been published twice in New American Paintings the West, Manifest's International Painting Annual, and the Prairie Schooner.

Statement:

My artwork incorporates personal stories and contemporary historical events to understand the world. This practice closely mimics the study of Epistemology in that I try to understand the differences between opinion and knowledge. In “Afield,” I draw from memory and imagination to tell emotionally authentic and

personal coming of age stories from teaching and living in Morocco. Whether showing a disparate world full of kinetic human energy or an introspective abstraction with space for deep thinking, these new works draw on themes of spirituality, cultural relativism, and adventure.