



JARID DEL DEO

5/8ths Moon



NANCY MARGOLIS
GALLERY

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MAY 16 – JUNE 23, 2023

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The oil paintings by Maine artist Jarid del Deo present familiar moments in ways that spark surprise and curiosity. The nine works featured in *5/8ths Moon* make use of the artist's own New England landscape to explore color relativity, form, and perspective. Del Deo punctuates rich, natural tones with intense hues to portray scenes from his immediate environment: rooflines, forest clearings, moonlit bodies of water, and personal objects. Instead of choosing subjects that readily conjure the unexpected, del Deo ramps up the emotional impact of the ordinary through a careful application of color and compression of space. He spends a great amount of time observing and learning from nature, and begins the painting process in his studio. There, he calls upon imagination and memory to inform his compositions. He explains: "By painting what I am familiar with, I avoid being mesmerized by novelty. This helps me to stay focused on the formal elements and keeps me engaged in building out the painting as an accumulation of marks and arrangements."

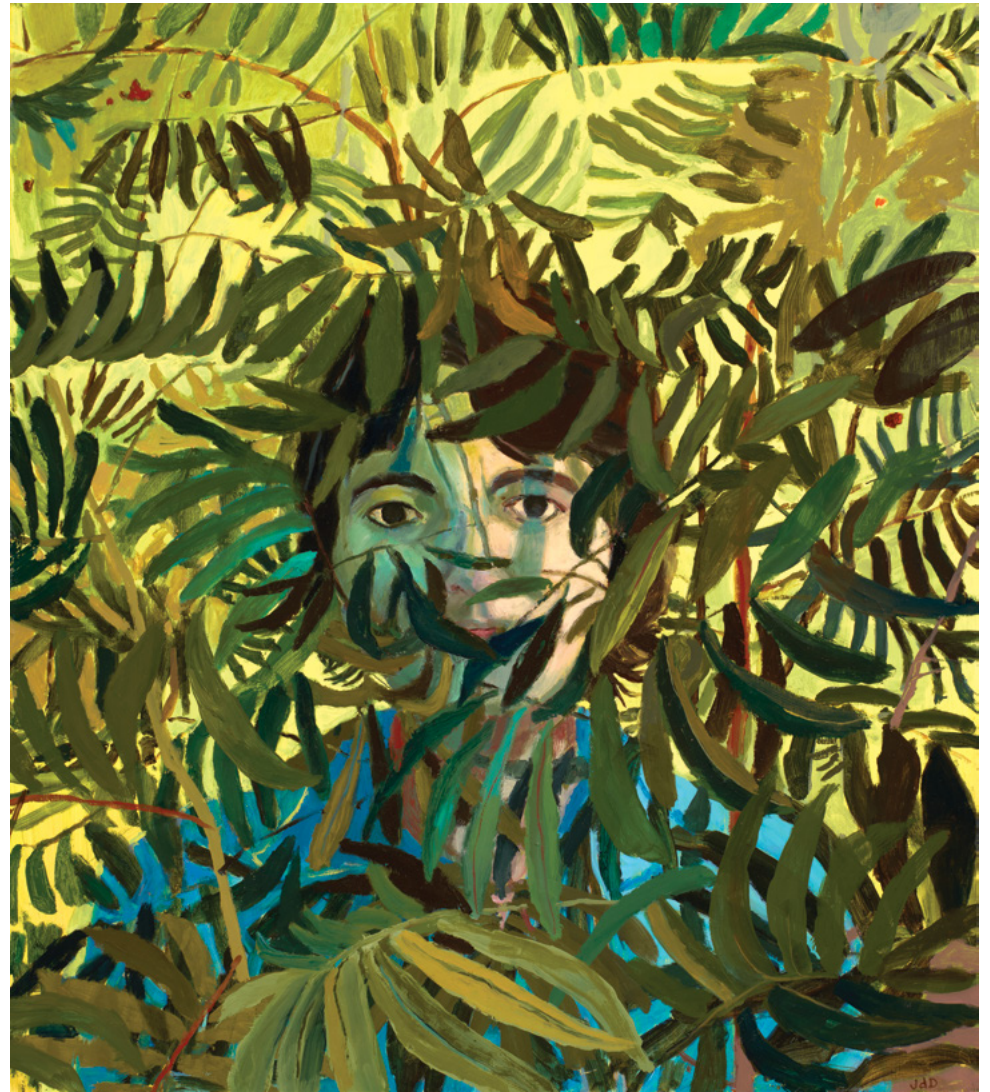
Del Deo inverts the traditional notion that a subject must occupy the foreground. The nearest elements, objects we are all familiar with — windows, tree branches, a car dashboard — take on unfamiliar roles. They settle into the periphery, highlighting a specific moment or place as though enclosed in a frame. In one instance, a tightly-cropped view of curtains fills the picture plane, only revealing a thin, panoramic seascape beyond the fabric. In another, a break in the trees exposes a neatly stacked pile of logs beside a pickup truck, hinting at a narrative taking place beyond the dense foliage. By highlighting, but also obscuring, his subjects, del Deo instills mystery and drama into the everyday.

The artist's recontextualization of common imagery creates the feeling of experiencing a familiar setting in a new light. He challenges viewers to let go of their preconceived understanding of recognizable objects, much the way that repeating a common word makes it lose meaning and familiarity. These techniques



activate his compositions and transform viewers into participants, observing, questioning, and searching. Through his manipulation of space and uncanny use of color, Jarid del Deo re-presents familiar views, surprising our senses and upending our expectations.

Jarid del Deo lives and works in Maine. After graduating with his B.F.A. in painting and printmaking from the University of New Hampshire, del Deo spent over a decade working in the performing arts in the Pacific Northwest and Europe. In 2012 he settled in Maine and turned his focus back to painting. Del Deo exhibits regularly on both coasts and has work in private collections throughout the U.S. and Canada. In 2022, del Deo was named one of ten emerging artists to watch by *Art New England*.



JENNY IN MOUNTAIN ASH
2021

Oil on panel
18 x 16 inches



RED LINE ON SKELETON POND
2023

Oil on panel
22 x 24 inches



BREAKWATER
2023

Oil on shaped panel
24 x 33.5 inches



CURTAIN WITH PINK DOT
2023

Oil on panel
25 x 24 inches



NATURE SEES YOU
2019

Oil on canvas
48 x 60 inches



SPRUCE CREEK (RED BANDANNA)
2021

Oil on panel
24 x 24 inches



THREE CHIMNEYS
2021

Oil on panel
18 x 16.5 inches



EVENING WINDOW
2022

Oil on panel
16 x 32 inches



5/8THS MOON
2023

Oil on panel
13 x 12 inches



My interaction with the New England landscape is a primary source of subject matter. By painting what I am familiar with, I avoid being mesmerized by novelty. This helps me to stay focused on the formal elements and keeps me engaged in building out the painting as an accumulation of marks and arrangements. I feel a connection to the tradition of representational picture-making but it is color relativity, shape, and compressed space that excites me. I spend more time looking than painting and I am slow to decide what I am reacting to. I consider this observational relationship to be as important as the finished work.

— JARID DEL DEO

Jarid del Deo

BIDDEFORD, MAINE

EDUCATION

B.F.A. University of New Hampshire

EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Of And About The Road*, University of New England, Biddeford, ME
5/8ths Moon, Nancy Margolis Gallery, online
- 2022 *Driveway to Driveway*, Rochester Museum of Fine Arts, Rochester, NH
Painting Nerds, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME
Summer Invitational, Katzman Contemporary Projects, Dover, NH
Surfacing, Zero Station, Portland, ME
Grey Magic, studio e gallery, Seattle, WA
You're Invited, Alice Gauvin Gallery, Portland, ME
- 2021 *Parts of an Immense Whole*, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME
- 2020 *Nano, Engine*, Biddeford, ME
Admirational Invitational, studio e gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2019 *Flavor Profile*, Border Patrol, Portland, ME
O Horizon, Waterfall Arts, Belfast, ME
Intermission, Engine, Biddeford, ME
- 2018 *Influx II*, Pepperrell Mill, Biddeford, ME
Things I Have No Words For, Kelley Stelling Contemporary, Manchester, NH
- 2017 *Influx*, Pepperrell Mill, Biddeford, ME
- 2016 *American Optimism*, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME
What Goes Around..., Nahcotta, Portsmouth, NH
Exhibition, Buoy, Kittery, ME
ETA #19, Nahcotta, Portsmouth, NH
- 2015 *Rumpus Revival*, Engine, Biddeford, ME
Knock Knock, Mayo Street Arts, Portland, ME

GRANTS & HONORS

- 2021 Guest artist lecturer, University of New Hampshire
- 2020 Artist residency at Shaker Village, Canterbury, NH
- 2018 Co-recipient of Kindling Fund Grant, Andy Warhol Foundation



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