

June 13 through August 8, 2021

Heads and Tails

works by

Josh Tripoli

from Wichita, Kansas

Statement

Heads & Tails offers a compelling look into both sides of my studio practice, the figurative and the abstract, from 2012 to present. Refinement, coalescence, and revolution can be seen in key works throughout, as well as in the many studies, experiments, and midpoints along the way – the presented body of artwork an arrow of progress toward the future.



Recent abstract work was inspired by the structural geometry of the wings of Birds of Paradise, their influence on the relationship between color and light, and the focalizing powers of monochromy and repetition. Conceived as a whole and worked simultaneously, technique is reduced to its most basic communicative function – the mark. A symbolic binary system of one and zero unifies an endless variety of marks, fundamentally equal, essential, and part of the greater whole. Each mark comprises a relief-like panorama charged with the physical, emotional, and spiritual totality of its creation – records of active meditation spanning the wonders and tumults of love, empathy, compassion, joy, envy, pride, violence, and fear: *heads & tails*.

Recent figurative work was inspired by the Bible’s “body is a temple” verse which found a creatively compelling analogue in the “body as a lighthouse.” *Light*: awareness; a benevolent, guiding beacon. *House*: a seafarer’s haven; the relationship between keeper and voyager. A return from an ocean of wonder and tumult – love, empathy, compassion, joy, envy, pride, violence, and fear: *heads & tails*. Informed by André Breton’s “fundamental crisis of the object” and Bernard J. Baars’ “Theater of Consciousness,” images are representational but illusory – malleable – both confirming and questioning the reality of contemporary experience. Through projection and individual identity, personal symbols are elevated to universal mythos.

The same spirit runs through both, the same end in mind:

A catalyst for reflection, renewal, and transcendence.

The only difference is the means of communication.

Two sides of the same coin: *Heads & Tails*.

Biography

Josh Tripoli is an active artist working in Wichita, Kansas. He is known for his densely populated abstractions and stylized figurative work, and is currently represented by Reuben Saunders Gallery. Tripoli is co-founder of Lupoli Collective, a collaborative artist duo known for their colorful murals, illustration, and design work in Wichita and beyond. Through dedicated studio practice, public art, creative collaboration, and childlike exploration, Tripoli aims to inspire, enable joy, and empower creativity in his community and beyond.



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