

Press Release

Julian Hatton

No Crazy, No Mountain

October 30 - December 18, 2021

Catalog available

Elizabeth Harris gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings by Julian Hatton. This will be his 11th solo show with the gallery.

The title of this show was inspired by a comment made by mountain climber Nobukazu Kuriki in 2018, before he lost his life in his eighth attempt to climb Mt. Everest without supplemental oxygen. This spring Julian Hatton ventured from his usual creative territory in the Northeast to hike California's Sierra and Cascade mountains. With wry amusement, he noted the similarity between serious mountain climbing and a lifelong commitment to painting.

Most of the paintings in this show are either 10x10 inches or 60x60 inches, and all are painted in oil on panel, or oil on canvas stretched over a panel. Hatton continues to prefer a square or almost square format to the traditional landscape rectangle. His sense of freedom to explore any painterly idea in the context of an imaginary landscape explains the variety and inventiveness of his compositions.

He describes his method as improvisational and spontaneous, with an initial inspiration evolving into various possibilities, guided by the artist's response to the pictorial entity as it develops on the canvas and not by adherence to an outside source. The work is richly layered and attests to maturation over time. Hatton's vivid and expressive use of color, his vocabulary of animated forms and marks, and his fluent range of paint quality, all compliment complex pictorial narratives.

Over a career spanning four decades and counting, Hatton's method has evolved from early years painting *en plein air*, keenly observing nature, to a studio practice fueled by a distillation of imagination and perception. He still finds the radical diversity of nature to be both teacher and muse. He has expanded the landscape genre as organizational structure and as metaphor, revealing both his attitude toward life and obsession with painting.

Julian Hatton's work is in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Addison Gallery of American Art. He is the recipient of awards from the

American Academy of Arts and Letters, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Foundation for the Arts, the Pollock Krasner Foundation.
Corporate collections: Citibank, Alliance-Bernstein, Steve Wynn Collection.
Teaching experience: Rhode Island School of Design.
Visiting Artist/Lecturer: Dartmouth, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, City University of New York, Queens, Vermont Studio Center.
Residencies: MacDowell Art Colony, Rocheforte-en-terre, France.
Exhibition reviews: New York Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Brooklyn Rail, Art in America, ARTnews, Partisan Review, The Hudson Review, ArtCritical and more.