

Nathanael H Jones – Artist Statement

The image of a figure, effectively rendered, evokes a sympathetic response in a viewer. If the image of a hand is tense and contorted, the viewer feels that tension. If a languid figure is painted loosely, the viewer experiences that feeling by proxy. If a face is composed of broad, colorful brush strokes, a viewer may experience light as a tactile phenomenon.

Interestingly, landscape often evokes a similar, physical reaction in a viewer's body, simulating sensations of inhuman space and scale. But how can the physical experience of a landscape be located within the enclosed space of a body? How is it that external space can be *felt* at all?

In working both from direct observation and from memory, the inadequacy of my brain in storing and recalling complex information becomes apparent. Only when physically manifested, as in nature, or re-manifested, as in a painting, can the memories that I think I have even be shown to actually exist.

Through my recent work in landscape, I am recording and recreating the experience of the forests near my home, emphasizing the union of material and image, physical and imaginary, external and internal. I consider this body of work to be about opening outward. Recognizing that much of what I have considered integral to myself is in fact independent of my body: memory, experience, identity. I am opening outward. Examining the environment that surrounds me, and recognizing it as a part of myself.