



ERIK NEFF

*STATEMENT*

My work is very much about paint and the process of painting. The work of the past few years has moved toward a smaller, more intimate scale and to more resilient surfaces that tend to be panel, wood or paper mounted on panel. In the case of paintings made on wood, each piece is often unique in dimension and even shape, thus having an impact on the gesture and mood of the painting. The images themselves typically emerge through a process of applying and alternately removing paint. Throughout, I have been very interested in coexisting possibilities of perceived space and abstract narrative, where figure and ground relationships, color and shape juxtaposition, may allow a shape to exist simply as a shape, or illusionistically reflect the natural world. I think of the images more in terms of an abstract reality, which is at once ambiguous and also evocative of human experience, where there is a reordering of the observed and the remembered, and the visual impact of everyday objects or phenomena in the world can coexist, supplanted by the material of paint. It is the means by which the process of painting slows and extends perceptions of sight, thought and emotion that can allow for various threads of narrative to exist simultaneously and to meander and change as the image develops or utterly disappears altogether.