

OPEN MIND ART SPACE

La La La

IAN RAYER-SMITH

SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 8, 2022

OPENING RECEPTION:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 6-9 PM

OPEN MIND ART SPACE

11631 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025

GALLERY HOURS:

THUR - SAT, 11AM - 5PM

OR BY APPOINTMENT



Ian Rayer-Smith, *It ain't what you do it's the way that you do it*, 2022,
acrylic on canvas, 67 x 78.75 in. (170 x 200 cm)

Open Mind Art Space is pleased to present *La La La*, a solo exhibition featuring new abstract paintings by England-based artist, Ian Rayer-Smith. We are honored to host Ian Rayer-Smith's Los Angeles debut with an exclusive selection of fun and vibrant works from his latest series, the *Misdemeanor Collection*. An opening reception will be held on **Saturday, September 10th from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**. *La La La* will be on view from **September 10 - October 8, 2022**. Gallery hours are Thursdays - Saturdays, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM, or by appointment.

Last year in 2021, Open Mind Art Space presented *Signals*, an online exhibition introducing Ian Rayer-Smith's small works on wood panels, which provided a more intimate view of his imaginary landscapes. Each painting depicted a lone organic form that appeared to be neither human or animal. The unrecognizable forms were often rendered in a barren landscape or with a flat muted backdrop, evoking a sense of loneliness and isolation.

In contrast to Rayer-Smith's earlier moody and muted works, his larger scaled acrylic paintings on raw un-stretched canvas in his upcoming solo exhibition, *La La La*, are boldly gestural and do not shy away from color. Beautiful and free, his energetic paintings are unapologetically playful. He says, "There's a naughty side to all of us and it's important to maintain that little piece of ourselves that never grows up. Freedom to do what we want and when, and to be where we want and leave when we want, can take a long time to find. Some of us never can."

Rayer-Smith uses paint to create imagery that does not yet exist, and raw gestural mark making to explore new forms which will ultimately carry emotional weight. Rather than attempting to recreate an image, he uses it as a reference point by which to move from one painting to the next. He explains, "I think of my paintings as posing a series of questions rather than providing overt statements or narrative pointers towards any clear kind of answer. Instead, my process is more about showing my search for something which, maybe, I hope I'll never find."

Ian Rayer-Smith (b. 1970, Farnham, England) is an abstract painter with studios based in Cheshire and Shropshire, England. Influenced by the Abstract Expressionists with their emotional rawness and mark making, and by Renaissance painters with their composition style and how they rendered light and movement, he layers influences from art history with contemporary culture and his own personal experience. He aims to instill a classical feel into his work whilst finding new visual paths, with the result being an exploration of the purpose of painting itself. He reflects, "In a world preoccupied with technology, there is something remarkable about painting. It connects us back to humankind's earliest and most elemental forms of self expression."

Ian Rayer-Smith spent twenty years in business, working in the distribution and health lifestyle industries before beginning his practice as an artist. Having had no formal training or prior experience, Rayer-Smith started to paint as a means of escape, discovering his talent at the age of 36. Fascinated by the medium and its possibilities, he found himself propelled into a completely different career change from entrepreneur to a full-time artist. After receiving his BA with honors in Visual Arts from the University of Salford in 2013, he has since encountered a dramatic trajectory into the art world: attracting the attention of prominent collectors, winning several awards, and being featured in various international art publications. He is currently represented by galleries in London, Manchester, Munich, Melbourne, Paris, Lille, Lyon, Los Angeles, Dallas, Houston and Florida.