

OPEN MIND ART SPACE

SIGNALS

IAN RAYER-SMITH

SEPTEMBER 9-24, 2021

ONLINE EXHIBITION LAUNCH:
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 12 PM



Ian Rayer-Smith, *Small Panel Painting 2* and *Small Panel Painting 24*
2020, acrylic on wood panel, 11.8 x 11.8 in. (30 x 30 cm)

Open Mind Art Space is pleased to announce an exclusive online exhibition, ***Signals***, featuring abstract paintings by the gallery's first international artist, **Ian Rayer-Smith**, based in Manchester, United Kingdom (UK). The exhibition will launch online on Artsy on **Thursday, September 9th at 12:00pm P.S.T.**, and will be on view **online only through September 24th**, at the following URL: <https://bit.ly/artsy-signals>

The online exhibition features select acrylic paintings on wood panels from abstract painter, **Ian Rayer-Smith's** small panel series, ***Signals***. Each painting depicts a lone organic form that appears to be neither human or animal. The unrecognizable forms are often rendered in a barren landscape or with a flat muted backdrop, evoking a sense of loneliness and isolation.

Ian 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. Although his main body of work is comprised of large scale abstract paintings on canvas, these smaller scale wood panel paintings provide a more intimate view of his imaginary landscapes.

Rather than attempting to recreate an image, Ian uses it as a reference point by which to move from one painting to the next. He reflects, "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 based in Manchester, UK. Influenced by the Abstract Expressionists for their emotional rawness and mark making, and by Renaissance painters for 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 hopefully being an exploration of the purpose of painting itself. Ian received his BA with honors in Visual Arts from the University of Salford in 2013. His paintings have been featured by galleries throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States.

Open Mind Art Space is a contemporary art gallery and alternative art space located in West Los Angeles. It features contemporary art from a diverse blend of talented emerging artists and it is dedicated to facilitating a curatorial process that allows its artists to create impactful work. Its mission is to inspire and challenge the local Los Angeles community by providing a comfortable, engaging space for reflection and dialogue.