

Artist's Statement

This new series of work explores the atmosphere of the times we are living in – the essence of the people and the things that inhabit it – by examining the role subjective perception plays in the formation of individual and communal identities. In this way, my paintings extend an invitation to participate in this conversation around what it means to be a Caymanian in our contemporary era.

I think it has become more important than ever to produce work that explores the theme of the body and its relationship to the self and to the wider society in which we live. Abstract and Expressionist artists like Willem de Kooning and Max Pechstein, alongside fellow Caymanian artist Bendel Hydes, to me exemplify what it means to unpack the relationship between the body and the self. Like them, I seek to subjectively depict my subjects with a heightened and emotionally charged colour palette in order to tap into the subconscious, rather than simply idealise the figure. My paintings further ask viewers to consider if the relative absence of discernible figuration indicates an obscuring of perception, or rather an enhancing of it through the dispensing of expectations about the appearance and meaning of images.

The brushwork, composition and colours are intended to showcase the hand of the artist and to emphasise painterly impact and passing impressions in place of exact representation. Through their use of metaphor and analytical alterations of perspective, these paintings seek to reveal authentic or hidden truths and bridge the gap between expression and contemplation—both my own and that of the audience.

John Reno Jackson

The artist wishes to thank Sticks & Stones and Ledger & Looms for their in-kind support of this exhibition.

