



SAM ROLOFF

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I am a painter of time capsules.

Let me explain. I am strongly influenced by events in the news. After hearing of a "breaking news event" I get the images that are in my head on canvas as fast as possible in the fashion of a neo-expressionist often using words and rough drawings. As the event in time progresses and the facts change, so to do the scenes that I paint. Each of these "scenes" are recorded with a digital camera later to be printed in a book explaining in greater detail what the viewer is experiencing. This new genre of painting is best known as "Back-Story Under-Painting", you are now viewing the first examples of this approach.

My studio is filled with art, old and new, not just images, but multilayered friends and experiences. The paintings literally contain multiple stories and images that become hidden over time during development. I work among many changing canvases as stories come to fruition and then are hidden within a new painting overlapping the old. In this way the seasons are continuously changing in my studio, swaying into the next winter storm or dry, colorful autumn. Like time itself, my work has a movement that leaves a trail of evidence, buried within layers upon layers of wax, oil, and glistening resins.

My wife always says I never finish a painting when she looks at the studio full of paintings in progress. My approach to painting doesn't rely on what I see like a beautiful face, already knowing what the end will be. I feel that my work is alive and full of free choice sometimes taking control and the changing direction. Often the work is tied directly to a news event that is still unfolding so the painting to can't be done till the event has reached a conclusion.

The finished painting always contains a history with photo-documentation of its journey as well as the story behind each step. The photos reveal each painting created during my process of painting over the previous work. The final work is accompanied by this evidence of multiple paintings and ideas within the single canvas.

This is Back-Story Under-Painting.

Sam has gifted "Landscape Series – Untitled 07" to DRO.
100% of the proceeds from its sale will be used to support our work.