

T Y G E R  T Y G E R
G A L L E R Y

Tyger Tyger Gallery (Asheville, NC) is pleased to present:

The Soil's Gaze

an exhibition of watercolor paintings by

Chris Jehly

Exhibition Dates: March 1 - April 14, 2024

Opening Reception: Friday, March 1 from 6-8 pm

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday from 10-5 pm, Sunday 11-4 pm



Chris Jehly
Beyond the Eucalyptus, 2023
Watercolor on 300lb rough pressed paper
18" x 24"

About the Exhibition

Tyger Tyger Gallery's upcoming solo exhibition of plein-air watercolor landscapes by Chris Jehly, *The Soil's Gaze*, unveils the artist's serendipitous moments painting outdoors where nothing ever stands completely still. Sunbeams cut through descending fog, breezes move through undulating mountain foliage, and fallen trees nestle deeper into the damp earth. Within these constantly shifting spaces, Jehly makes quick decisions, building kaleidoscopic images dense with striations of radiating color. Whether hiking to secluded destinations in the Blue Ridge Mountains or painting the view from his grandmother's front yard, Jehly remains present and curious, letting his environment guide his painting process. "Plein-air painting is about being vulnerable physically, mentally, and creatively," Jehly says. "My approach is both reckless and ephemeral, fueling spontaneity and mark-making that would otherwise be overly edited."

Across the paintings in *The Soil's Gaze*, Jehly's background in printmaking is evident: natural, abstracted patterns that rely on meticulous channels of negative space contain the forms rather than allowing them to spill into one another, as seen in more traditional examples of plein-air painting in watercolor. Keeping the pigment more concentrated, he disrupts its desire to bleed and flow within the defined shadows on delicate leaves or gray clouds thick with water droplets. "These works traverse notions of what it means to be accurate, what can be abstracted, and plumbing the authenticity of experience," Jehly explains. "The paintings aren't necessarily a direct representation of the visual landscape, but rather incorporate the sounds of the environment, insects, my own body; the smells and changes in temperature and air pressure; the sense that I am a cell within a larger, living organism."



Chris Jehly
January Fog, 2023
Watercolor on 300lb rough pressed paper
16" x 20"

Jehly's transcendental landscapes in *The Soil's Gaze* conjure some of the pulsating, radiating paintings of Charles E. Burchfield, Paul Nash, and Chiura Obata—vibrating with the energy of the world both outdoors and within—as pigment turns to air and cold-pressed paper to earth. Jehly takes the viewer by the hand and brings them to his sacred locations, allowing them to feel the heartbeat of the surroundings and breathe alongside the exhaling trees.



Chris Jehly
Passage, 2023
Watercolor on 300lb cold pressed
paper
16" x 20"

About the Artist

Chris Jehly was born in Santa Rosa, CA and is now based in Asheville, NC. He received his BA in printmaking at Sonoma State University in 2006 and MFA in printmaking from Columbia University in 2011.

Jehly has exhibited throughout California, New York, and Asheville as well as internationally in Amsterdam and China. He participated in the Bosch Young Talent Show in Hertogenbosch, Netherlands in 2011 and the Japan Foundation cultural exchange residency in 2015.

Tyger Tyger Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am - 4 pm.

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