

# MICHAEL STEINBERG FINE ART

## Artist Statement

I am compelled by the geometric structure of the man-made environment. Using non-traditional painting materials and combining a mechanical painting language of hard edges, flat graphic shapes, vibrant colors and a high gloss surface with a more materially present painterly language, I attempt to create images which evoke the dissonance of the contemporary American landscape.

In my paintings, I place man-made structures next to natural landscape elements. Through this conflation, I seek to draw attention to the synthetic, and confirm its visual power and emotional resonance. Similarly, I aim to displace conventional notions of the sublime, and instead, revel in the beauty of the man-made world.

My recent paintings are based on imagery which I viewed / experienced while driving on highways in Pennsylvania and New Jersey – most notably on the New Jersey Turnpike, and more specifically on my way to and from New York. When I am driving I tend to clear my head and get lost in a meditative state. I am visually acute at these times, and see paintings everywhere.

Additionally, with the recent work, I've been trying to challenge myself with regard to my conceptions of what a painting is and how it is made. I've been trying to subvert my own notions of art, taste, and beauty, with the hope of expanding my technical and conceptual skills, and breaking down some long held beliefs. The idea of the artificial landscape has offered me a visually inspiring starting point, as well as an apt metaphor for approaching my specific process goal.

While in Iowa as a Visiting Assistant Professor, I have attempted to incorporate my new visual experiences into my current paintings. Still inspired by the imagery I experience while driving, my recent interest has focused on the icons encountered in the Iowa landscape.

Michael Perrone