

Artist Statement

Tanner Simon's paintings explore familiar visual tropes through the use of heroic scale and parodies of power. While not overtly political, Simon's work seeks to re-contextualize cultural truisms and common knowledge into icons of significance. His work is inspired by imagery created using digital paint and 3-D modeling softwares, often utilizing intensely flat fields of color and smooth renderings that evoke early internet meme culture. His use of strategic formal decisions and playfully vibrant colors fixes otherwise mutable subjects and imbues them with a bombastic presence. Simon's paintings assert their physicality through their scale and placement within space, forging a dynamic relationship with the viewer and questioning preconceived notions of their relationship with issues of representation, power, and meaning.

Simon's work has been exhibited and screened across Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maine, featuring notable solo exhibitions such as *I WTC* at the Mothership in Woodstock, NY 2023, *Hell's Kitchen* at Gallery 501 in Tampa, FL 2023, and *Big Soup Big Responsibility* at Art Center Sarasota in Sarasota, FL. He has also participated in group exhibitions such as *An Ouroboros of Looking* at Heiress Gallery in St. Petersburg, FL 2023, *Karst Grounds* at Tempus Projects in Tampa, FL 2022, and *I Keep the Ladders Clean* at the Contemporary Art Museum in Tampa, FL. He is the recipient of the "Spirit of Shit in the Dirt Award" at the *Shit in the Dirt Film Festival* in Portland, ME 2022 and has been screened at the Orlando Museum of Art in Orlando, FL 2023 and Bad Film Fest, New York, New York 2024. Simon's work is published in the Artist Registry of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York, NY 2023.

Born in 1998, Tanner Simon is a multidisciplinary artist from Honesdale, PA. He holds a BA in US History and Studio Art from Elizabethtown College. Simon currently administers several grant programs as well as manages two exhibition spaces with year-long programming in Narrowsburg, NY.