

MATTHEW COUPER



5-28 MAY

OPENING RECEPTION:
FRIDAY 05 MAY, FROM 6PM

MAGMA

5 BEDFORD ST, COLLINGWOOD
WWW.MAGMAGALLERIES.COM

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MATTHEW COUPER | 5 - 29 MAY, 2023

Matthew Couper is an Aotearoa / New Zealand-born artist living and working in the USA. His art over the past twenty-five years mined western Art History practices ranging from early Italian Renaissance to Spanish and Mexican Baroque.

From the middle of 2019, desert island landscapes, moody skies enveloped with plumes of smoke, eyeballs with decorative tears, nails and Malevich-like constructions inhabit the canvases. Modes of survival are presented in tools such as the fire-starting bow drill and the ominous shark fin in the surrounding sea. Constructions provide shelter.

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“The bigger picture is about survival ... the Social Isolation phenomenon is prevalent in a time where the world population is at its highest ever; questioning how we live, or don't live in relation to others and false senses of security - not ready for slight shifts in the environment or other chaotic factors in society... With my new paintings, I've started off with the term 'desert island' to tie where I live now in the Mojave with where I come from in Aotearoa / New Zealand - especially in a world of pandemic peril - the term 'Desert Island' reconnecting my two worlds in paint.”

After three years of developing the language of painterly aesthetic survival methods on canvas, Couper is translating his large format paintings into sculptures, focusing on the interplay between materials and form. The oscillating compositions of nailed-together lumber, ropes, dripping eyeballs and billowing pipe smoke are portrayed in the tangible forms of wood, aluminium, glass, bronze, gold-leaf and the architectural protection technique of yakisugi. In a similar way to Couper's make-shift constructions in his paintings, the sculptures implement various techniques with a variety of materials to realize the work in 3D. Matthew is showcasing a first edition prototype of his sculpture work in this exhibition.

Matthew Coupe (b. 1976) received his bachelor of fine art from The Quay School for the Arts in Whanganui, Aotearoa / NZ. Recent solo exhibitions include Isolation Paintings, Millennium Art Gallery, Blenheim, NZ, Isolation Paintings, Aigantighe Art Museum, Timaru, NZ, Isolation Paintings, Selected group exhibitions include ALPHA: MAGMA Galleries Launch, (2023); Every Artist, City Gallery Wellington | Te Whare Toi, NZ; A la Racine, Biennale of Art and Culture d' Aix enProvence, FR (2022); Bunny Yeager and her Circle, The Betsy, Miami, USA. Matthew's work is held in the following public collections: Aigantighe Art Museum, NZ, Barrick Museum of Art, USA, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, AU, Sarjeant Gallery, NZ, The Real Art Roadshow Collection, NZ, and the National Gallery of Australia, AU. Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, FR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, NZ & IT.

Matthew lives and works in the Mojave Desert USA.

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Matthew Couper
Hovering Enclosure, 2023
Oil on plywood
25 x 20 cm

\$ 1,600

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Matthew Couper
Gestural Stack with Peaked Island, 2023
Gouache on paper
30 x 22 cm

\$ 680

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Matthew Couper
Failed Mechanism, 2023
Oil on Canvas
135cm x 105cm

\$ 16,000

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Matthew Couper
Painting for a Sculpture #8, 2023
Oil on found plywood
30 x 28 cm

\$ 2,600

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Matthew Couper
Red and Pink Grained Panels, 2023
Gouache on paper
30 x 22 cm

\$ 680

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Matthew Couper
Blue Whips on Salmon Island, 2023
Oil on panel mounted on wood
40 x 30 cm

\$ 3,400

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Matthew Couper
Lark's Construction, 2023
Oil on Canvas
180cm x 135cm

\$ 25,000

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Matthew Couper
Crying Bowdrill, 2022
Oil on Canvas
140cm x 105cm

\$ 16,000

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Matthew Couper
Fading Gestures, 2022
Oil on Canvas
100cm x 80cm

\$ 10,000

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Matthew Couper
Decline of the Clovis Culture, 2022
Oil on canvas
100 x 80 cm

\$ 10,000

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Matthew Couper
Brutal Group, 2022
Oil on Canvas
180cm x 145cm

\$ 25,000

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Matthew Couper
Triagulated Pivot, 2023
Oil on plywood
16 x 22 cm

\$1,200

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Matthew Couper
Triangled, 2022
Acrylic on paper
20 x 15 cm

\$ 520

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Matthew Couper
Pale Scape IV, 2022
Oil on paper mounted on panel
60 x 40 cm

\$ 3,600

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Matthew Couper
Pale Sails, 2023
Gouache on paper
30 x 22 cm

\$ 680

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Matthew Couper
Study for a Sculpture #4, 2023
Oil on canvas
35 x 27 cm

\$ 2,900

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Matthew Couper
Study for a Sculpture #7, 2023
Oil on plywood
20 x 15 cm

\$ 1,200

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Matthew Couper
Study for a Sculpture #6, 2023
Oil on cardboard mounted on wood
28 x 20 cm

\$ 1,800

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Matthew Couper
Study for a Sculpture #2, 2023
Oil on cardboard mounted on wood
28 x 20 cm

\$ 1,800

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Matthew Couper

Proto 1, 2023

Bronze, glass, gold leaf and synthetic polymer on wood

43.5cm x 21cm x 25.5cm

Original 1 of 1

\$ 8,000

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