MATTHEW COUPER



5-28 MAY OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY 05 MAY, FROM 6PM

5 BEDFORD ST, COLLINGWOOD WWW.MAGMAGALLERIES.COM



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.

"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.



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

\$1,600



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

\$ 680



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

\$16,000



Matthew Couper

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

\$ 2,600



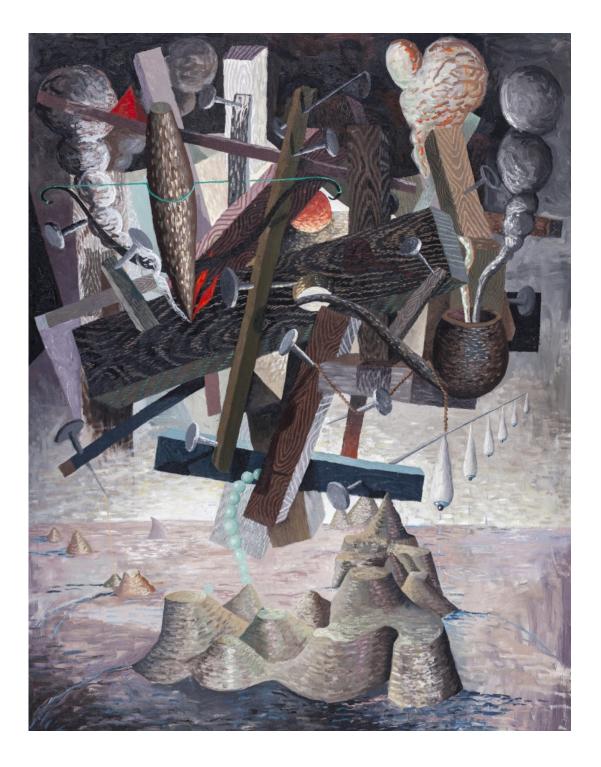
Matthew Couper Red and Pink Grained Panels, 2023 Gouache on paper 30 x 22 cm

\$ 680



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

\$ 3,400



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

\$ 25,000



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

\$16,000



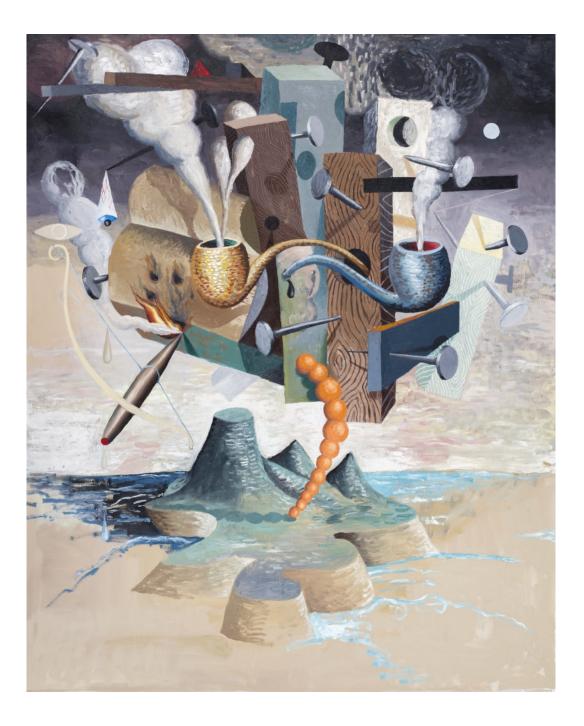
Matthew Couper Fading Gestures, 2022 Oil on Canvas 100cm x 80cm

\$10,000



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

\$10,000



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

\$ 25,000



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

\$1,200



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

\$ 520



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

\$3,600



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

\$ 680



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

\$ 2,900



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

\$1,200



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

\$1,800



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

\$1,800



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





THANK YOU 😊