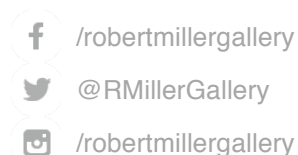


ROBERT MILLER GALLERY

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RAN ORTNER

JANUARY 14 – FEBRUARY 20, 2016

New York, NY – December 18, 2015. Robert Miller Gallery is pleased to announce *Ran Ortner*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by the artist.

Ortner's process focuses on his unique relationship with the ocean which is reflected in large-scale paintings of bodies of water. His new work examines the tender and terrifying interplay that occurs as waves crash against one another. This show will be the artist's first major solo exhibition.

An autodidact, Ortner has spent the past two decades creating a singular language with the ocean. It is in moments in the rhythm of moving water where Ortner finds inspiring potential. The intoxication he experiences through the elegant rage of the endless sea is what sparks each intricately layered painting.

The materials Ortner uses—colored mud or stone blended with paint—are very basic, stressing the elemental nature of the paintings' construction, much to the same point as his use of a simple stick with animal hair fastened to it for a paintbrush. Employing a layering process inspired by the old masters, painting is a form of discovery for Ortner in which his technique is ever-evolving. The back and forth fretwork of this layering is where Ortner holds his intention and energy. He strives for his paintings to take on their own life, rather than become a depiction; he paints the ocean seen, not the ocean.

Ran Ortner was born in 1959 in San Francisco and was raised in rural Alaska. His first career was as a professional motorcycle rider, and he remains an avid surfer. Ortner moved to Brooklyn in 1990, where he began painting the ocean with a regard to its expanse, pulling from visceral body memories from decades of surfing. In 2005 he began to explore a particular kind of intensity realized through the layering of oil paint.

In 2009 Ortner won the inaugural ArtPrize competition, in 2011 his work *Deep Water No. 1* was selected as the visual centerpiece of Le Bernardin, and in 2013 the Dutch government commissioned *Element No. 5* for the United Nations' World Water Day at the World Forum in The Hague.

In July 2015, two of Ortner's paintings were installed in the lobby of 7 World Trade center at the invitation of Larry and Klara Silverstein. *Element No. 1* and *Element No. 2* were on view in the building through mid-December 2015.

Ortner continues to work from his studio in Brooklyn.

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