



## **ROBERT MELLOR** | Artist Statement

My paintings can be viewed as propositions for visual enactment by the viewer, each work providing cues for engaging with the composition, layer by layer, edge by edge, line by line, color by color. A painting enters the ecosystem as an object aware of its history yet emboldened to present the assets that define its being. Biases influence how the viewer perceives meaning and imposes value, worth, and history. If a painting can just be, making no demands other than what a viewer can glean from the experience of seeing, then the painter can paint freely.

I like to imagine that the final work becomes a physical record of the things that I am experiencing, feeling, and seeing in the world. I explore the hybrid re-combination of information abstracted from natural and organic forms, imagination, fashion, gesture, and collage. There's unlimited potential in the process to allow for works to assert their originality, and thus no two works are ever the same. This liberty makes the studio and my practice a haven for thought, escape, reaction, and recharging. I often paint to process how I can be impactful given the complex nature of living in this time.

I affirm that these paintings are a set of enticements and seductions for viewers that make a bold statement for new directions in painting. The newest works present independent lines of inquiry exploring the tension between highly stylized forms and representation through a hard-edge, layered process. Shifting forms collide on the surface of the work, balancing frozen gestures with suggestion. These hybrid paintings merge flat pattern with spatial illusion, all presented in shallow sculptural relief. The physically intriguing and attractive nature of my work and unusual process is best experienced in person.