

## It must have been the ROsEs...

Matt Roe is an abstract painter born in a blue blooded Connecticut neighborhood in 1977. He grew up in a period of post-contemporary art that disowned traditional painting and moved towards intangible concepts posed as fine art. Roe was more interested with Abstract Expressionism and Surrealists than the contemporary artwork of the eighties and nineties. He related more to the free-form design based works and the comical side of Surrealism.

Roe is most interested in the energy and movement of his painting. He carefully works and reworks his canvases to create a very painterly masterpiece that appears to be minimal. His patrons have been purchasing his latest body of work in greater numbers than his previous more illustrative works. Roe states, "it must've been the right place at the right time." The artists' work is constantly morphing in and out of styles but retain the beauty of what "makes a Roe."

In the piece *School of Fish*, he blended a variety of these new styles into one cohesive image. The painting started with a spray paint layer, which developed the feeling of depth of the water. The overlaid abstract gestures act as complex subject matter suggesting fish, water, movement and passage of time. This composited layering technique is also utilized in *Summer Foliage*.

The "Metal Works" series started with the piece *Copperfield*. Roe used recycled copper panels to highlight the background, similar to the underlay effect in *School of Fish* and *Summer Foliage*. At different times in the day, and in different lighting situations, it shines and reflects in novel ways. The abstraction is the constant of the painting, much like the trees are the constant of land. Staying true to his belief in Buddhism, he uses recycled materials as it is giving new life to an old form, much like our culture or history it is destined to repeat itself, and with that comes a new age and form. After a short while, its presence will resurface, sometimes in a whole new light.

The idea behind the "Yin" and "Yang" paintings is the duality of energy. This is showcased with the ancient Chinese philosophy of Taoism. The basic beliefs in the Yin and Yang concept is that the two opposing contrary forces are interconnected, and how each gives rise to one another in a complimentary manner. With each canvas being the exact opposite but the forces of the abstract complementing each other by mimicking the technique into each of their own attributes in opposite ways.

Roe is a mid-career international artist with an ever-expanding base of collectors. The artist is dominating the contemporary scenes of New York and Connecticut, and has also been exhibiting throughout Europe since 2010. He is currently seeking **west coast** representation.