

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES SPRING 2024 SEMESTER

Painting Do-er: A Reductive Abstract Artist In Response to Conditions of Our World

Gain insights into the creative philosophy and how art responds to the dynamic conditions of the 21st century during this enlightening artist talk with Douglas Witmer (b. 1971), a distinguished Philadelphia-based artist who has garnered global acclaim over nearly three decades.

Rooted in “painted presence,” Witmer’s recent works activate elemental compositions with sensuous color and improvised actions, operating within a formalist abstraction framework. Using thin watery layers, he establishes rectilinear structures subjected to accident-like situations, resulting in marks defying expectation.

With a B.A. from Goshen College and an M.F.A. from The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Witmer continues shaping abstract painting’s discourse through curated exhibitions and a philosophical approach to art-making.

His extensive exhibition history includes solo shows at prestigious institutions globally and his work is featured in prominent collections.

- Artistic Focus: Witmer explores “painted presence,” inviting viewers on a meditative journey through color and emotion.
- Creative Process: Using sensuous colors and improvised actions, Witmer’s methodical approach creates dynamic tension and expressive outcomes in his artwork.

Recommended by: Lucas Kelly, Professor of Visual Arts and Gallery Director



Douglas Witmer, M.F.A.
Artist and Curator

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7
12 NOON – 1 PM
COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING - CM 108

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