



## KING'S LEAP

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### **Chad Murray**

#### *Landscapes*

March 7 to April 6, 2023

Have we been here before? The title of Chad Murray's show *Landscapes* informs his audience of his genre, one that has been repeatedly mined in painting's historical canon. The directness of the title suggests more beneath the surface of Murray's five paintings. These are not merely landscapes. Murray derives his laboriously produced paintings primarily from his imagination rather than pre-existing source images. From there, Murray uses a detail driven approach to the application of paint. In his words:

"I start a painting by drawing with a brush and thin paint, approximating the colors as I go, dealing with the larger shapes. The paint application is very thin and generally soft. I build up thin glazes by applying paint and wiping it away, showing the colors beneath and complicating them. It's a process of beating and scrubbing the paint with stiff brushes and rags, and then using very soft brushes to dissolve and smooth everything out. Over and over again.

90% of the painting is just setting the stage for the final moves, where I need to be more decisive. When I'm getting into fine detailing, the brush is quite loose in my hand, rolling it between my fingers, pushing and scraping, trying to get the paint off the brush in a way that emulates the randomness we see in nature."

These all-too-real scenes represent places and events that range from the pre-historic to post-human, archeological to science fiction: dinosaurs, asteroids, icebergs, waves, jungles. In all of the paintings for this series a sense of all-consuming sublime permeates. Romantic, yes. But Murray is not only obsessively representing man's inferiority in the face of nature. If these scenes are purely fictional, a subjective expression of the extraordinary, then Murray renders the aimless haze of the present. This is a zone where time, images, catastrophe and beauty become flattened into a world without orientation. What he depicts through his technical control of paint is an entropic drift, a horizon of infinite possibilities just out of reach from our fingertips.

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**Chad Murray** (b. 1985) is a Abbotsford born artist based in Los Angeles. Select solo exhibitions include Sebastian Gladstone (Los Angeles, CA), No. 3 Gallery (Vancouver, CA), and Sunset Terrace (Vancouver, CA). Recent group exhibitions include Make Room (Los Angeles, CA), Sebastian Gladstone (Los Angeles, CA), From the Desk of Lucy Bull (Los Angeles, CA), Duplex (Vancouver, CA), Patron Art House (Vancouver, CA), and Project Pangee (Montreal, CA).