

The Familiar Unknown – by Miles Toland

Ryan Joseph Gallery May 14 – June 8 2022

Ryan Joseph Gallery is elated to present ***The Familiar Unknown***, A Solo Exhibition by Miles Toland. This being Miles' debut solo exhibition in Denver, he has been tirelessly preparing an all-new body of work over the last year for this special occasion.

Miles' surreal paintings capture the mysterious places we visit between sleeping and waking. He invites the viewer into this liminal space by blending familiar elements of our objective world with ethereal textures and geometric patterns. The mandalas and the organic fluidity of wood grain suggest the subjects' energy extending beyond their physical bodies and into the realm of spirit. Miles approaches his art as a practice of bringing resistance into resonance, honoring the beauty in decay, and finding wisdom in nature's forms.

Miles grew his roots in the artistic city of Santa Fe and is currently making art in the woods of Nevada City. His creative juices have been squeezed from the fruits of graffiti culture, a BFA at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, live painting at festivals, and traveling around the world creating street art in places including Paris, Switzerland, Art Basel Miami, Mexico, and Canada. His mural series at the Beatles Ashram in Rishikesh has been published in the Smithsonian Magazine and The New York Times blog. Another one of his murals in India was readapted to be featured as the artwork in the second season of the AMC show *Better Call Saul*. Miles' work finds an even split between studio art and street art.

In regards to the new body of work, Miles presents,

“The Familiar Unknown is about moving in-between worlds and bridging our experiences with uncharted mysteries. It is a journey into the self, moving inward through layers of our perception and ultimately towards accepting was is, as it is. This inner journey can stir up a myriad of stories and emotions that cling to our beliefs about who we think we are supposed to be. With the right perception and orientation, our shadow selves can be used as a compass to bring us toward our light. This guides us back toward knowing that we are already whole and complete. Close your eyes, take a deep breath and join me on a journey into *The Familiar Unknown*.”

Please join us Saturday, May 14th from 5pm to 11pm for the opening of ***The Familiar Unknown***. The artist will be in attendance, and hosting an artist talk.

The exhibition will be on view Saturday, May 14th to Wednesday, June 8th. For more information on this exhibition or to request a advanced collector's preview, please contact gallery Director Ryan Connell at info@ryanjosephgallery.com

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