



Curated by Paul Édouard Bourque

Jared Betts
(Pictus)

August 9 - September 19, 2020

ARTsPLACE Gallery 396 St. George St, Annapolis Royal, NS

PICTUS consists of a series of large-scale acrylic paintings on canvas, by Moncton based artist Jared Betts. Created during the winter months of 2018-19, these works are part of a major show currently touring Atlantic Canada. The exhibition is curated by Paul Édouard Bourque.

Jared Betts is currently engaged in exploring cutting edge expression modes in the field of contemporary painting. His use of gesture and expressionist forms has since the onset set the tone for his highly charged pictorial works. Betts aims at rethinking the very parameters of contemporary painting, and his work as such touches on many pertinent and pressing concerns around the practice of chromatic mark-making, and how these relate to artistic ideals in the 21st century.

Betts confronts the picture plane with bravado and panache. Application and treatment of pigmented matter relies on a zen-inspired attitude mastered by the artist who “gazes trance-like at the surface, until the piece happens...”. Painting such as this requires a definite sang-froid and the mastery of one’s state of mind. The realization of a self-contained, autonomous body of work results from Betts’ full-time commitment to the exploratory adventure around mark-making and structural use of colour as a construction strategy for the picture.

Betts has travelled extensively and has benefited from many artist residencies throughout the world. His rapid absorption of other cultural mores has resulted in a global stance, but also a very intimate and personal one, in regards to what it signifies for an artist to articulate and express visual ideas and ideals onto a blank canvas, while maintaining a deep commitment towards the graphic expression of abstraction and form. His vision resonates within contemporary concepts relating to site, space and time. His strong ties to itinerancy and travel underline the inescapable passage of time; sequence allied to process becomes manifest in these large canvases, whose aim seeks to engulf the viewer’s imagination with vibrancy, action and life.

Paul Édouard Bourque
Curator



Pictus 2, 2018-19 / Acrylic on canvas / 84" x 60"



Pictus 3, 2018 -19 / Acrylic on canvas / 84" x 60"



Pictus 6, 2018-19 / Acrylic on canvas / 84" x 60"



Pictus 8, 2018-19 / Acrylic on canvas / 84" x 60"

Artist Statement

"My use of ethereal gesture and expressionist forms has since set the tone for my highly charged prismatic color field paintings. I aim to rethink the very parameters of contemporary painting, and my work touches on many pertinent and pressing concerns around the practice of chromatic mark making, and how these relate to artistic ideals in the 21st century. My martyristic paintings inhabit the space where consciousness descends into dream; where pattern and color expand to become an immersive sensory experience. In this celestial space, I seek to examine this dream-like suppression of recognizable imagery and capture the visceral sensations with the sublime nature of drips and the colorfield. Multiple layers of tension – between the duality of conscious and subconscious surrealist automatism, flat surface and illusory depth – propel my Aquarian desire to use visual cues as a means of stimulating ascending metaphysical sensation."

Artist Bio

Jared Betts' paintings are included in numerous corporate and private collections in Paris, Toronto, Montreal, LA, China, Australia and Iceland. Jared earned a BFA from NSCAD University and has exhibited in over 150 exhibitions in Tokyo, Paris, New York, London, Iceland, Germany, Costa Rica and all across Canada. He is the recipient of nine artsnb grants, a Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage grant, an Enterprise Greater Moncton business grant and two New Brunswick Tourism, Culture and Heritage grant.

Jared has taken part in several artist residencies, from the land of fire and ice in Iceland, a castle in Ireland to spending half a year in the jungles of Costa Rica resulting in an exhibition at the National Gallery of Costa Rica. Most recently, he gave an artist talk at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, completed a 100 foot mural in Halifax sponsored by Studio 21 Fine Art Gallery and exhibited at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. Upcoming residencies include an invitation by the James Baird Gallery to a one month residency in Pouch Cove and will be taking part in a two month Artist Residency in Taipei, Taiwan. Jared works out of a studio in Moncton, New Brunswick.

For more information, please follow:



jaredbetts.com



[jaredbetts](https://www.instagram.com/jaredbetts)



[jaredbetts.art](https://www.facebook.com/jaredbetts.art)

Cover: *Pictus 7*, 2018–19 / Acrylic on canvas / 84" x 60"



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