

# iantangallery

## STEVE BAYLIS

In Baylis' oil paintings, he is not representing known objects or figures, but speaking directly through the paint. He seeks to reflect energy itself, from its micro form to the level of the universe. His compositions can be divided into clusters even while they work as organic wholes. Elements like colour, tone, and form speak their own language, both directly and in interaction with each other. In *Banal Motivation* for instance, we see his use of vibrant pink points beam out from beneath radiant greens and blues. The viewer could be looking at extreme close-ups of nature, particle clusters, details of an inner landscape, or simply forms of paint, pigment, and brushstroke themselves. His sensitivity to his materials having their own voice honours the same qualities in Mark Rothko's later "multiform" paintings, as well as colour field painters like Barnett Newman – both of whom have been great influencers of Baylis' oeuvre.

Baylis' process is specific to the characteristics he seeks to emphasize. He starts by bleaching and staining the panel. Then he applies clear gesso, developing or minimizing texture as the piece invites. He builds oil and wax glazes of transparent pigment and then responds to them with final passes of gestural brushwork. As a body of work, it would land well within abstract expressionism, yet Baylis also subtly references photographic representation. He does so by embracing the precision and pixelation of Chuck Close's portraiture; exploring each paint stroke as entities in themselves.

Steve Baylis was born in Vancouver BC in 1980. He studied Art & Design at Kwantlen University and continued his training at Capilano University, where he mentored under artist Kiff Holland.

### Education

Graduate of the IDEA Program, Capilano University (2005)  
Kwantlen University, Art and Design (2002)

### Awards and Grants

"Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series, Vancouver Finalist" (2018)  
"Canvas Unbound", Federation Gallery (2016)  
"Abstract", Federation Gallery (2016)  
"Limitless", Federation Gallery (2015)

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## **Selected Exhibitions**

- 2019 Contemplated Realities, Guest Solo Exhibition, Ian Tan Gallery, Vancouver, BC (Forthcoming)
- 2018 Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series, Vancouver, Gallery Jones, Vancouver, BC  
Manifestation of Intention, Seymour Gallery, North Vancouver, BC  
Manifestation of Intention, Firehall Art Centre, Vancouver, BC  
Group Exhibition, Harrison Galleries, Vancouver, BC
- 2017 Group Exhibition, Harrison Galleries, Vancouver, BC  
Painting on the Edge, Federation Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2016 Group Exhibition, Federation Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2015 Group Exhibition, Federation Gallery, Vancouver, BC

## **Publications and Media**

CBC Arts, “Art Minute: Steve Baylis”, June 2018  
Pratique des Arts, “Issue No. 138: Steve Baylis”, Jan 2018  
International Artist Magazine, Issue #118 Dec 2017 / Jan 2018  
S.A.D. Magazine, “Issue No. 23 Space: Steve Baylis”, 2017  
VICE Media, “The Creators Project: Steve Baylis”, by Diana Shi, Feb 12, 2017

## **Related Experience**

Senior Art Director, Latitude Agency, Vancouver BC (2005 – 2018)