



John Breakey | **Artist Statement** | Wilmington, Delaware | February, 2018

Simple, sustained acts of observation aid me in subduing the pervasive influence of modern day screen culture. By taking time to slow down, viewing reveals the inherent potential of what is on display; short moments become longer periods of cataloged observation. My painted expressions are born from the simple act of pausing to look up and out into the distant sky. I present these observed events of nature as simple, dense and reductive compositions that serve as a respite or pause for the viewer.

The space above the horizon line, so familiar to us all, provides conditions that empower my vision. The powerful brevity of Minimalism and the lasting voices of the Abstract Expressionists motivate me to treat the pure instance of looking out not as an act of passive observance but as a call to action.

As the amount of time living through screens increasingly dominates our lives, key details of observed life go missing. These luminescent paintings of the sky represent a search for my own sublime—to capture a small slice of temporal property that is untended and give it the attention it needs, as well as offer it up as a haven.

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