

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Jason Middlebrook

Skies

March 11 - April 10, 2022

Opening Reception: Friday, March 11th, 6 - 8pm

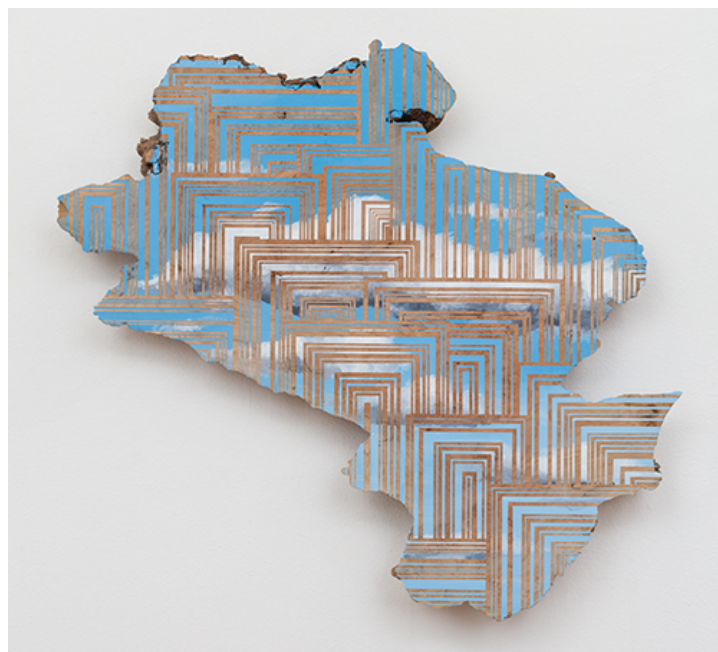
No appointment necessary / Free and open to the public

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present *Skies*, by Hudson, NY - based artist Jason Middlebrook. In his second solo exhibition with the gallery, Middlebrook takes inspiration from lived experience and the natural world with his signature hardwood paintings.

Familiar yet enigmatic, the sky in its various forms serves as muse in *Skies*. Never the same twice, the sky is ever-changing, differing dramatically from place to place and throughout each day. At times seemingly benevolent and at others cruel, vast sky is in constant diaphanous conversation with the landscape and activity below.

Middlebrook's signature "canvas" of polished cross sections of hardwood speaks to the artist's deep tie to nature and its innate universal appeal. Striated with undulating rings, and sourced from a mill located in the Berkshires, local indigenous hardwoods such as cherry, walnut, maple, elm, white oak, cottonwood, and Cairo walnut are among the hardwoods Middlebrook uses in his works.

Wonderfully organic and irregular, the silhouette of works featured in Jason Middlebrook's *Skies* balance the airy weightlessness of line with the embodiment of slow time. Based on skylscapes observed during his travels and throughout a lifetime living in various locations around the United States, memories of transitional skies overhead connect to specific experiences. In this way, infinite variations of the sky are interpreted and abstracted across works, taking form via cues in color, form, and line.



Jason Middlebrook, *Sky Series #1*, 2021-22, Acrylic on maple, 29.5 x 26.5 x 2.25 in. (74.9 x 67.3 x 5.7 cm)

About Jason Middlebrook

Jason Middlebrook, born in 1966 in Michigan, lives and works in Hudson, New York. He has mounted solo exhibitions at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (Connecticut), New Museum (New York), Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Monica Museum of Art, and SCAD Museum of Art (Georgia). He has created major outdoor artworks for the Albright Knox Art Gallery (Buffalo), Metropolitan Transit Authority (New York), Public Art Fund (New York), and Sun Valley Center for the Arts (Idaho). His work is in the collections of the Addison Gallery of American Art (Massachusetts), Denver Art Museum, Museum of Modern Art (New York), Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, Marte Museum (San Salvador), NASA Art Program (Washington DC), New Museum (New York), Princeton University Art Museum, Progressive Art Collection (Ohio), and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions. David B. Smith Gallery is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA).