

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Paul Jacobsen
Spatial Vision

November 3 — December 2, 2023
Opening Reception: Friday, November 3, 6—8 pm
Free and open to the public | Artist in attendance

Returning for his 4th solo exhibition with the gallery, David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to announce *Spatial Vision*, by New York-based artist Paul Jacobsen. This show builds on two distinct art movements, Romanticism and Minimalism and is soaked in deep purples, indigos, violets, and oranges, and studded with his signature lens flares. Jacobsen's adept technical skills shine in his trompe l'oeil depictions of great expanses within humble constraints. Both prismatic and monochrome, these dualities encompass the interactions of the world outside and the one within. While the reframing of works made in the middle of the industrial revolution evokes the specter of all that has come since. Given this perspective across time the viewer is invited to trace the shape of the sublime as it morphs into the climate chaos raging against the ravages of an thoroughly industrialized world.

At the conceptual core of the exhibition is a study of light. Light makes vision possible, revealing the material reality of our surroundings and enabling our perception. A visible form of energy that shapes our reality while also functioning as a metaphor for understanding, revelation, and the true nature of things, light is a crucial part of the human experience. From this central point, Jacobsen uses the metaphor of light and visibility to explore not only the process and unseen elements of the material world, but of painting and artmaking as it pertains to his studio practice.

Located in the Hudson Valley in New York state, Jacobsen revisits the historical works of Hudson River School master painters Friedrich Church, Albert Bierstadt, and Thomas Cole, as well of the German Caspar David Friedrich depicting their canonical works as black and white drawings and paintings. Each of these pioneering artists depicted light as a powerful manifestation, a divine and guiding force. Jacobsen's inclusion of these works underscores his continuing awe and reverence for nature, and in his reproduction of early masters' revelatory moments he shares in their discoveries.

Functioning as borderline optical illusions, painted onto canvases and panels of works in *Spatial Vision* are wooden frames and stretcher bars rendered in hyper-realistic detail. Jacobsen's painterly accomplishments are showcased in this gesture, as he alludes to the wooden stretcher bars beneath the canvas layer. The concept of the visible vs invisible is woven into each piece in the exhibition, questioning the influence of history, light, and wonder on our perception. In *Spatial Vision*, Jacobsen harnesses a modern take on masterworks of the sublime, drawing his focus on natural light's powerful and enveloping truth.

About Paul Jacobsen

Paul Jacobsen was born in Denver in 1976. He grew up in a family of artists in a small mountain town in Colorado and moving to Brooklyn at a young age he has split his time between the two ever since. Forgoing a formal art degree Jacobsen has taken classes in Florence at Lorenzo De Medici Instituto de Arte, studied privately with acclaimed realist still life painter Daniel Sprick and worked for Artists such as Jeff Koons and Rudolf Stingel. Typically working with traditional mediums such as oil paint and charcoal, Jacobsen investigates the intersection of civilization and technology. His works have been exhibited at MASS MoCA and the Aspen Art Museum, among other institutions. Jacobsen lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

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." 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).



Paul Jacobsen, *The Invention of Nature (with Caspar David Friedrich)*, 2023, oil on linen, 40 x 33 in. (101.6 x 83.8 cm)