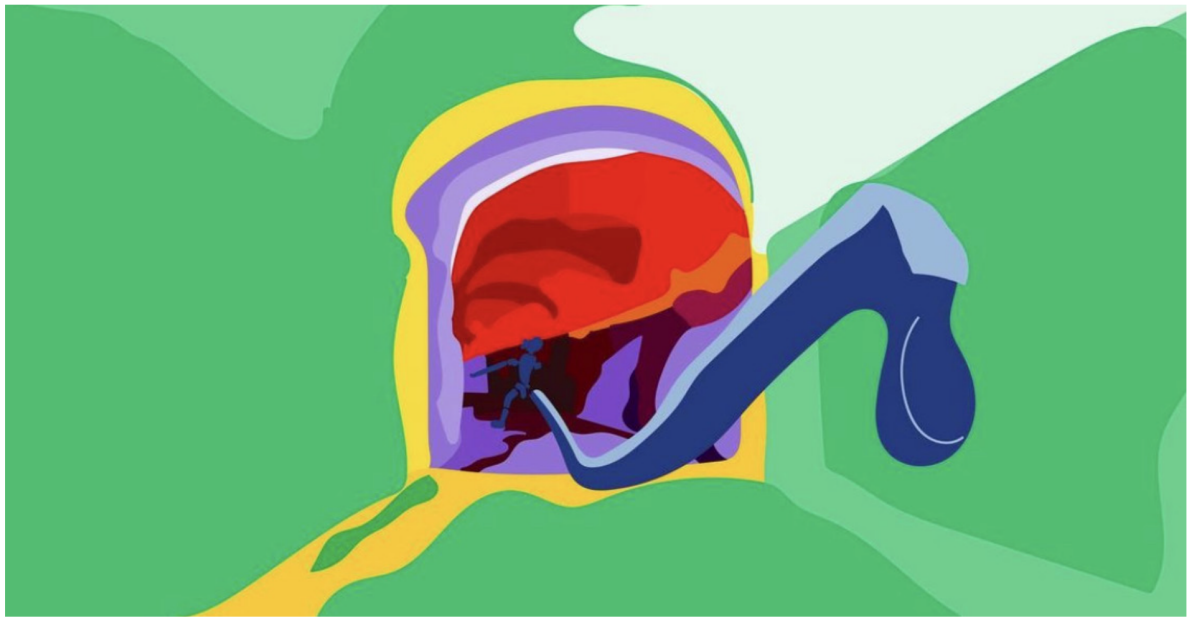


Conduit Gallery at Reservoir Studios presents: *Rounding the Corner*
Recent work by Kristian Armour-Williams, June 4, 2023 — August 12, 2023



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 24, 2023 - In this new body of work, Brooklyn-based artist Kristian Armour-Williams explores emotional states that he experienced during the ending of a personal relationship that took place during the pandemic, and at a distance. Works in the exhibition also relate the transformational emergence from this harrowing time into a newfound relationship and a more joyous space. Included in the exhibition are eight new works as well as a wall painting made on site.

The digital paintings in this show, printed on canvas board, represent entries from a weekly diary, and the selection of these journal entries, converted and made visual, focus on themes and ideas the artist is interested in focusing on more deeply. Digital painting is a highly accessible medium for the artist and allows for fluidity between emotional impulses and feeling states and self-expression. The process of developing images is day to day as forms and colors are allowed to materialize from the mind and evolve organically, many times depicting a figure in movement and transition. This process has become second nature to the artist as he records emotions in myriad colors and forms as they are felt.

The title of the exhibition, *Rounding the corner*, is significant to the artist, encompassing the concept of, in the artist's words, "addressing and holding everything that comes your way, without taking any shortcuts." During the period in which these works were made, Armour-Williams sat with his heartbreak and took the steps needed to feel good in his own skin once again. The artist is adamant that, "There is no shortcut when it comes to that." The piece that shares the title of the show represents the artist transitioning into the new year, excited and ready for whatever comes his way.

In the paintings *This is how I feel* and *Now I feel like this*, the artist specifically references the distance and depression brought on before and after a trip to California in 2021 around the time of the break-up. He sees these compositions as portals, where everything is in motion. During this period, the artist turned to art therapy as a coping system to mitigate the heartbreak, and in so doing, developed an iconography of self-portraiture. In working with a symbolic figure that is a representation of the self, Armour-Williams has found another mode for contemplating the emotional rhythms and environments he finds himself within. The image of the figure comes from the artist's childhood, immersed in the culture of New Orleans, and resembles the "old jazz man" logo from posters and t-shirt designs for music festivals attended by the artist in his hometown. It is a familiar and benevolent icon.

Dreams are also significant to the artist, and a source of inspiration. Armour-Williams keeps a dream journal and notes the images and stories that come to him outside of waking consciousness. In many ways, this new body of work is emotionally intelligent and engaged in a way that's new for the artist. He embraces a sense of full creative freedom in creating works that are self-aware—he knows why and who he's making them for as a practice of deliberate self-expression—and that that person is himself first and foremost. In developing his color vocabulary, he uses colors contextually, so that each painting has an internal color logic different from the next. Different colors can mean different emotions and moods depending on the day and composition.

BIO

Brooklyn-based artist Kristian Armour-Williams (b. 1993, New Orleans, LA) creates colorful digital illustrations which help him document his own mental health. Kristian views his works as visual journals and a way for him to thoroughly digest the full menu of emotions that we take on every day.

Kristian's digital works focus on movement, color and how he is interacting with the world that he's created. "I've never been someone that processes information through writing. When it comes to expressing myself, imagery is the vehicle that makes the most sense for me. I just hope that when people see these works, they can resonate with the colors and the shapes, and it helps them to better understand themselves and the ones they surround themselves with."

The exhibition is online at reservoirstudios.nyc. The show will be on view by appointment from June 4, 2023 to August 12, 2023 at Conduit Gallery at Reservoir Studios, 659 Woodward Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Contact reservoirstudios659@gmail.com or cb@caetlynnbooth.com to schedule a visit.

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