



CODY HOOPER

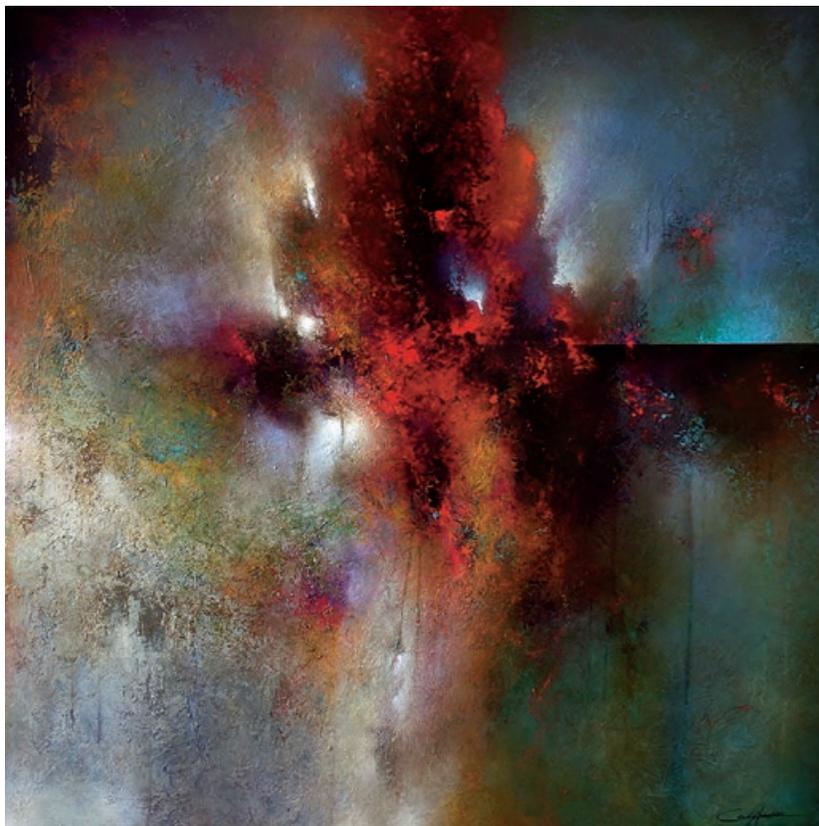
A spiritual awakening

Cody Hooper wants his colorful abstract paintings to have the same effect on viewers as their favorite songs do—to grab them, to give them goosebumps, to be so inspiring that they feel an instant connection to the art. He uses vivid hues and light to pull people in, surrounding vibrant pigments with moodier dark tones, letting the paint drip down and water spots to emerge through the help of a spray bottle. His work demands instinctual reactions, as his pieces are inspired by nature, such as the acrylic on panel *Miracle in Time*, which reminds him of space, the creation of the world, the planets and the solar system. “It’s a miracle all those things come together,” says Hooper, and the piece, at 5 by 5 feet, certainly envelops viewers. “It has that big universal feel to it,” he says.

Hooper, based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, began his career painting realism scenes in watercolor, and turned to abstract work about seven years ago. His acrylic on panel pieces still evoke a watercolor effect, as he paints in thin layers and uses translucent techniques to let colors build on each other. Hooper doesn’t mix paint on the palette, instead opting to apply everything on the panel and let the vibrant colors pop through. Hooper goes against painting tradition and paints light to dark, aiming to achieve what he calls a backlit feel that comes to life in a gallery setting and intrigues viewers.

“It gives it a really unique look and is more like a chess game, where you’re having to think five steps ahead,” he says of his technique. Light is very important to Hooper, who says his use of light in his work plays into the storyline of “a spiritual awakening,” which is the title of his upcoming exhibition at Pippin Contemporary in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He’ll be showing 10 new works at the gallery, which has represented him for the past two years. Owner Aleta Pippin says, “Cody’s intuitive use of color coupled with dynamic design cause his abstract paintings to stand out in any environment.”

One of Hooper’s collectors, Judy Martinez from Dallas, owns several of Hooper’s



1
Move Through Me, acrylic
on panel, 48 x 48"

2
Aqua Sensation, acrylic
on panel, 24 x 24"

3
Miracle in Time, acrylic
on panel, 60 x 60"



3

pieces and says when she saw his work, she was instantly awakened by the lifelike energy, flow and strength embodied in his paintings.

“I never tire of gazing at his art, as I am always pulled into the color, energy and depth,” says Martinez. “I have always said that art you fall in love with is always intriguing. You will never fall out of love with it—you just continue to discover

something new in the pieces that keeps you interested.”

Hooper aims to make his work impactful through the use of color, while he shows expressions through shapes, such as the dramatic energy of bold swooshes. He applies very thick brushstrokes to engage viewers who look at the work up close, while the technique also gives the work an obvious human touch. He says he’s pleased with the

decision to transition to abstract work, a genre that constantly stimulates him.

“When I was doing realism work, I didn’t get to express myself with every piece,” Hooper says. “With abstract, you don’t know what your outcome is going to be. You can plan as much as you can, but you don’t know. I knew I never was going to get tired doing this, and it’s always going to be exciting.” ●