

SHRINE

Derek Aylward (b. 1976, Boston, MA) lives and works in Quincy, Massachusetts. Aylward attended The Art Institute of Boston from 1997-1999 and has exhibited in group shows at V1 Gallery (Copenhagen), Sorry We're Closed (Brussels), Blum & Poe (Los Angeles) and Nassima-Landau (Tel Aviv). His most recent, and first, solo exhibition in New York was with SHRINE in 2021.

Aylward depicts images of disembodied heads dropped down on a horizon, Donald Duck taking a toke, tennis matches gone riot and groupings of stupefied figures unconsciously, and narrowly, dodging parachuting skulls. Mystical creatures appear frozen in time as they amble through their day, glowing with neon edges and humane countenances, and human figures dissipate into neatly Cubist backdrops only to reemerge across the way.

Derek Aylward's paintings are completely raw, while at the same time deeply classic as they meditate on a sense of community and togetherness. People are together, as gangs, in play, in fight and sometimes shown just quietly taking it all in.

Rob Ober was born in 1968 at an American military hospital in Wiesbaden, West Germany. As the son of a US diplomat, Rob grew up in the Soviet Union, India and Greece. He was fortunate to be introduced as a child to numerous Russian painters, poets, writers and filmmakers. In high school, he attended the Nick Bolletieri Tennis Academy where his roommates included future #1 player, Jim Courier. Later he became a teacher of Russian and US History at Kent School in Kent, Connecticut, where he currently lives with his wife and two kids.

Fifteen years ago, he started Ober Gallery in Kent, CT showing artists such as Katherine Bradford, Robert Nava and others. His own obsessive painting practice began a decade ago and has become his primary motivation in life.

In Rob Ober's paintings, we witness an intuitive, stream of consciousness approach to image-making with subjects ranging from memories of growing up abroad, family life, animals seen on trips with his children and explorations of his vivid dream-life. Ober paints quickly with an expressive and forceful application of acrylic paint, and his images are frenzied, sometimes intense, and always draw us in with an inherent humor and unique style.