

**MATTHEW F FISHER**

Matthew F Fisher's work exists in the space between the universal and personal. When one thinks of a crashing wave, rarely are they able to conjure an exact mental picture; rather, their memories act as approximations of what they have told themselves these forms look like. Fisher's paintings exist within this memory-as-reality, semi-rational in their structure. Using the language of landscape painting as the middle ground between figuration and abstraction, Fisher simultaneously references past, present, and future. This nod creates a limbo between polarities of natural and artificial, action and frozen, real and imagined and is where the narrative starts, and like the painted image, is finished in the viewer's mind.

*Matthew F Fisher (b. 1976, Boston, MA) lives and works in New York, NY. His recent solo exhibitions include *The Great Fire, SHRINE*, New York, NY (2020); *After the Ice*, Taymour Grahne Projects, London, UK (2019); *Soft Nature*, Ochi Projects, Los Angeles, CA (2019); *Strange Light, Over Under Room*, Brooklyn, NY (2018); *Into the Blue*, Johansson Projects, Oakland, CA (2018); and *Observable Universe*, Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York, NY (2017). Fisher's work has been exhibited internationally at venues including *The Hole*, New York, NY; *Spazio 22*, Milan, Italy; *Work Release*, Norfolk, VA; and *The Breeder*, Athens, Greece. Fisher is the recipient of residencies and awards including a Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant (2016), Yaddo (2015, 2007), a New York Foundation for the Arts Artist Fellowship (2010), and the Millay Colony for the Arts (2005). He received his MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University (2000) and his BFA from Columbus College of Art and Design (1998).*

**SAM SHOEMAKER**

Sam Shoemaker's work stems from his interest in ecosystems, radical pedagogies, and responsive and relational objects as he facilitates ongoing collaborations with rare, native, and medicinal fungi. Drawn to objects that behave, react, change, grow, and carry rhythm, Shoemaker collects and propagates mushrooms, manipulating them in a highly controlled environment of his design. Pairing reishi mushrooms, known for their medicinal qualities and red- varnish coloring, with hand-built ceramic vessels, Shoemaker developed a unique substrate formula that allows the mushrooms to grow for several months,

slowly emerging from within each vessel. Comparable to a long exposure in photography, Shoemaker carefully moves LED lights, adjusts the temperature, changes the saturation of CO<sub>2</sub>, or moves the reishi themselves closer or farther apart—in order to choreograph the forms. Archiving these reactions as they grow, Shoemaker captures mushroom good moods, tantrums, or other unanticipated expressions of fruiting body language. The results carry the poetics of an organic form responding to its manipulated environment, an expression of the artist as a steward of matter, and myriad ecological possibilities.

*Sam Shoemaker (b. 1991) lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. He received his BFA from California Institute of the Arts in 2014 and his MFA from Yale University (sculpture) in 2020. His recent exhibitions include Expanded Field at Ochi Projects, Los Angeles, CA, Walking at Café Quoi Sculpture Garden, Los Angeles, CA and Jupiter Finger organized by Shay Myerson at Real Pain, Los Angeles, CA. Shoemaker will have a solo exhibition with OCHI in 2022.*