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Modern West announces MATTHEW SKETCH | AFFINITY FOR GRACE

January 15 - March 2, 2021 / 412 South 700 West SLC, UT 84104

The exhibition will be open Tuesday - Friday / 10am-5pm, Saturday / 10am-2pm

Modern West is pleased to present *Affinity for Grace*, a solo exhibition of paintings by Matthew Sketch. The exhibition is on view from January 15, 2021 through March 2, 2021 at 412 South 700 West in Salt Lake City, Utah, as well as online. All are invited to attend.

This exhibition developed out of a body of work Matthew Sketch created during his time as the Artist in Residence at Modern West. In his first series based on landscapes, Sketch displays his virtuosity in precision. Inspired by a year of road trips, created by an aversion to commercial flying related to the pandemic, Sketch created a unique and bold perspective on the classic American vision of the traveling landscape. Similar to other bodies of Sketch's work, this series utilizes strong tones, cleanly and perfectly separated into distinct geometric shapes.

In each piece, Matthew explores the setting sun in an geometric abstract landscape. The exhibition centers around an enveloping 6 x 6 ft. work on canvas with a sun resting on the periphery. In a seminal process for Sketch, these works are the first in which he has incorporated gold leaf. With the application of epoxy resin to the canvas, Sketch was able to display the dimension of the material. An homage to his city of residence, Salt Lake City, the mountains are reflected in half of the sun. Sketch's commentary on the unprecedented year culminates in this body of work. The vibrant sunsets experienced in 2020 came partially from wildfire smoke. In a contrasting tone from his other concurrent projects, Sketch looks for a positive breath after a year focused on the social and political issues ravaging the United States. Sketch says of the work, "I am keen to remind the viewer that even if we anticipate the coming of dawn, we still get to enjoy the journey of the sun as it sets."

Matthew Sketch grew up in Houston, Texas, where he worked as an industrial designer in the oil industry. Since 2012, he has practiced full-time as an artist. Solo exhibitions include *Snow Carte Blanche* (2019), *Obligatory Consent* (2018), and *Simply Complicated* (2017). Sketch's work is included in several private collections in the United States.

1. Matthew Sketch
Nautical Twilight no. 3
acrylic on canvas / 2020
36 x 36 in



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About Modern West

Modern West is a gallery created by Diane Stewart to support established and emerging contemporary artists who, in compelling and varied ways, reframe our understanding of the American West. Through thoughtful exhibitions, the gallery illuminates both new and historical bodies of work that are relevant and meaningful for today's audiences.

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