



John Peterson

Born 1983 in San Dimas, CA
Tierra del Sol artist since 2013

Rancho Cucamonga-based artist John Peterson has built an expansive practice surrounding his fascination with architectural forms. Easily oscillating between painting and ceramics, Peterson intuitively molds abstract monuments to mythic structures of his own design. Peterson's two-dimensional works do not draw on reference imagery but consist of an organic arrangement of patterns resembling rock formations or windows of buildings. At times, the artist uses recurring, overlapping characters from his own name to serve as the work's underlying structure. Peterson creates a gestural sketch in pencil and then begins to flesh out his abstract networks of form in bold lines drawn in brightly colored, richly saturated markers. Occasionally, the artist heavily layers the back of the work with media, allowing pigment to bleed through the fiber of the paper. Peterson's initial sketch and methodical mark-making remain visible as he fills the surface of the work from edge to edge, revealing evidence of his meticulous process. The artist's fascination with architecture continues in his ceramic practice, consisting of hand-built towers reminiscent of steeples or temples. Characterized by sensuously rounded corners and deluges of multicolored glazes, these structures evoke comparisons to artifacts of another time or mysterious constructions from another world. Most recently, Peterson has turned his attention to creating built-up, acrylic-on-wood panel works that exist at the intersection of 2D and 3D constructions. The media is so heavily layered that the paintings take on sculptural form. Peterson balances this laboriously applied texture by using simple shapes as the primary compositional force in each work. Natural yet manmade, organic yet geometric, Peterson's practice can be described as an exploration of polarity.

John Peterson has exhibited his work at Tierra del Sol Gallery in Los Angeles, CA; the Claremont Museum of Art in Claremont, CA; the Inland Empire Museum of Art in Upland, CA; and the Hellada Gallery in Long Beach, CA. Peterson was included in "Space is the Place," a group exhibition curated by Alison Saar.