

## **RICHARD KEEN STUDIO**

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### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

As far back as I can remember I have made sense of the world through art.

An abstractionist, my work is known for use of color, line and geometry influenced by the Maine coast, where I live and work. My art begins from observation and experience. Nature, man-made objects and the spaces between them that often generate geometric shapes and patterns inspire me. I filter which elements of my observations and experiences to focus on by removing unnecessary detail.

My “Abstract Topographies” reference elements of landscapes and coastal vistas around Maine. They are reflections on hikes that I take with my family and dogs. I am inspired by the “spaces between” objects that often generate geometric shapes and patterns. I also process my experiences by painting natural colors against amplified colors.

My most abstract body of work, called “Form Singularity” uses painting and sculpture to reference seascapes and boat components like rudders, keels and boat building designs in a more minimal and reductive approach to making art. These paintings source elements of the Maine coast and working waterfront in the most contemporary way I see possible.

The methods I use to paint vary. From scraping, wiping, brushing, and spraying to spreading the paint with palette knives and scrapers, in the form of metal, rubber and even old credit cards. I often balance the use of crisp lines and shapes (created by taping off areas) against visible aspects of brushwork and other mark making processes.

My abstractions are rooted to the concept of place, while allowing the viewer space for their own interpretation and meaning.