

Chad Hallblade  
Milwaukee, WI

## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I make modestly scaled abstract oil paintings on canvas and panel, thinning down the oil paint with solvent to a point that I can loosely draw with it.

This act of drawing is integral to my work, as I compulsively doodle in every notebook, sketchbook, and scrap piece of paper I get my hands on.

I take pleasure in drawing curvilinear and organic shapes, which are pulled instinctively from a library of forms and lines within my mind. My early interest in graffiti and handwriting persists, making its way into the work again and again.

Play and experimentation are at the heart of my approach—playing with the thin paint, seeing what the brushes can do, reveling in the joy of mixing color on the palette and applying it to the surface in varying layers. This openness to experience lets the paintings develop in an organic and intuitive manner.

The relationships between shapes and color create little dramas within the picture plane, without spelling out specific narratives. These interactions amongst forms drive the mood and tone of the work.

For me, painting is a tool for learning about myself. The unconscious act of letting go, of letting the work “make itself,” taps into my true self, an unthinking but knowing and confident self. It can be difficult to push forward when I fall too in love with an image at an early stage. It is exactly this moment of letting go and having faith in the process that pushes the work forward and continues the journey into discovery.