

Robert Martin: *Flamboyant Beckoning*

Exhibition Dates: November 17 - December 17, 2022

Opening: Thursday, November 17th

103 Allen Street, Lower East Side

1969 Gallery presents *Flamboyant Beckoning*, Robert Martin's first solo exhibition in New York City. Comprised of 9 new paintings and 6 works on paper, this exhibition explores Martin's relationship with the familiar landscapes of their childhood, and their recent return to the midwest as an adult.

In Robert Martin's paintings, you will find scenes of rural midwestern landscapes: figures swimming in still lakes and circles of light and rainbows forming as a refraction of the sun's rays through humidity and upon the water. Each of these paintings captures the vivid moments of dusk, just before nightfall arrives. Evening has personal symbolism, not only for Robert, but for many queer people, as it represents a time of freedom. Under the cover of nightfall, there is safety in anonymity and having the space to be oneself. Beyond figuration, Martin explores queerness through symbolism within nature. The

artist first became aware of their own queerness through observing variation and oddity amongst the flora and fauna in the woods of Wisconsin — unexpected phenomena such as five leaf clovers, genetic deformations in flowers, and same-sex pair bonded mallards.

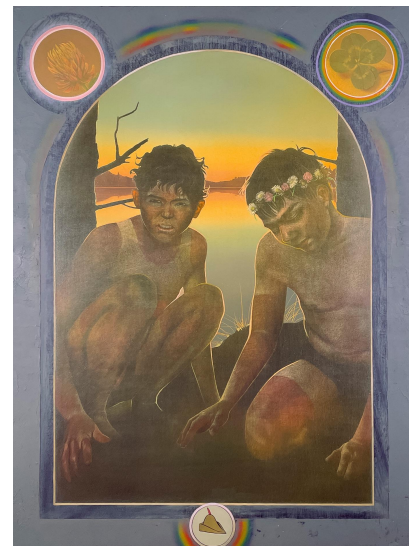
In many of their works, Martin makes direct autobiographical references to both childhood and the present. *Oo-De-Lally (Danger in the Water)* is a title sourced from Roger Miller's song "Oo-De-Lally," from the animated film *Robin Hood*. Just like its reference, the painting is exploring the innocence and nostalgia of childhood, while also examining an element of danger. In this painting, a hidden figure is grabbing the ankles of the primary character, and attempting to pull them under the water. Other works are affectionate portraits of people from the artist's life, as with *Nate (Memory in Ochre)*, a painting of Robert's now husband when the two would hike to waterfalls together prior to moving away from the midwest. *Return*, one of the largest paintings in the exhibition, is a self portrait. In this painting, Robert is seen from behind, facing the setting sun. Flying in the sky is a Great Blue Heron, known colloquially in the artist's family for generations as a "Shy Poke". The position of the figure looking out onto the landscape suggests hope — that this return is one of happiness and peace.

Robert Martin's paintings are a revisitation of the pastoral spaces they grew up within, and a documentation of the queerness which exists, but is perhaps not shown, in rural America. Rurality has long been considered parallel to or accommodating of conservatism and machismo attitude. This exhibition lovingly depicts the rightful place for queer narratives within these landscapes — it is not a demand for representation, but an acknowledgement and celebration of their place in the world.

For inquiries, please contact:

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Oo-De-Lally (Summer Wedding), 2022,
oil on panel, 24h x 18w in



Robert Martin
Return, 2022
oil on linen
60h x 36w inches



Robert Martin
Oo-De-Lally (Danger in the Water), 2022
oil on linen
60h x 36w inches

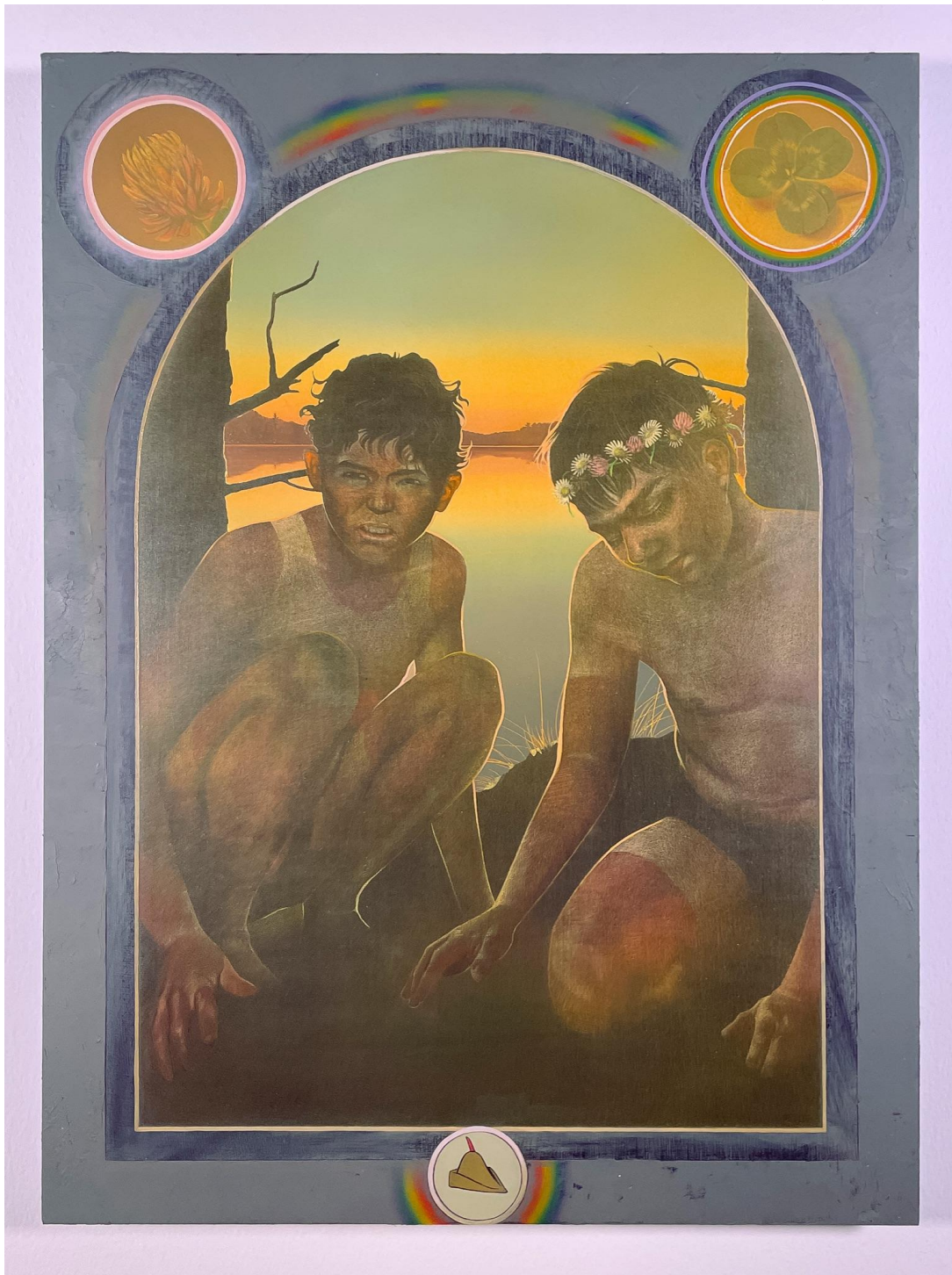


Robert Martin

Bug & Papo, 2022

colored pencil, acrylic and oil on panel

36h x 24w inches



Robert Martin

Oo-De-Lally (Summer Wedding), 2022
colored pencil, acrylic and oil on panel
24h x 18w inches



Robert Martin
Nate (Memory in Ochre), 2022
oil on linen
24h x 16w inches



Robert Martin

Aura Study (Wisconsin River), 2022

oil on linen

24h x 16w inches



Robert Martin

Two Drakes, 2022

colored pencil, acrylic and oil on panel

18h x 12w inches



Robert Martin

Menomonie Mudpuppy (For Kat), 2022

colored pencil, acrylic and oil on panel

18h x 12w inches



Robert Martin

Bizarre Paradise, 2022

acrylic and oil on canvas

9h x 12w inches

WORKS ON PAPER





Robert Martin

Nate (with chromatic aberration), 2022

colored pencil, ink, watercolor, acrylic and oil on paper

8.4h x 11.25w inches

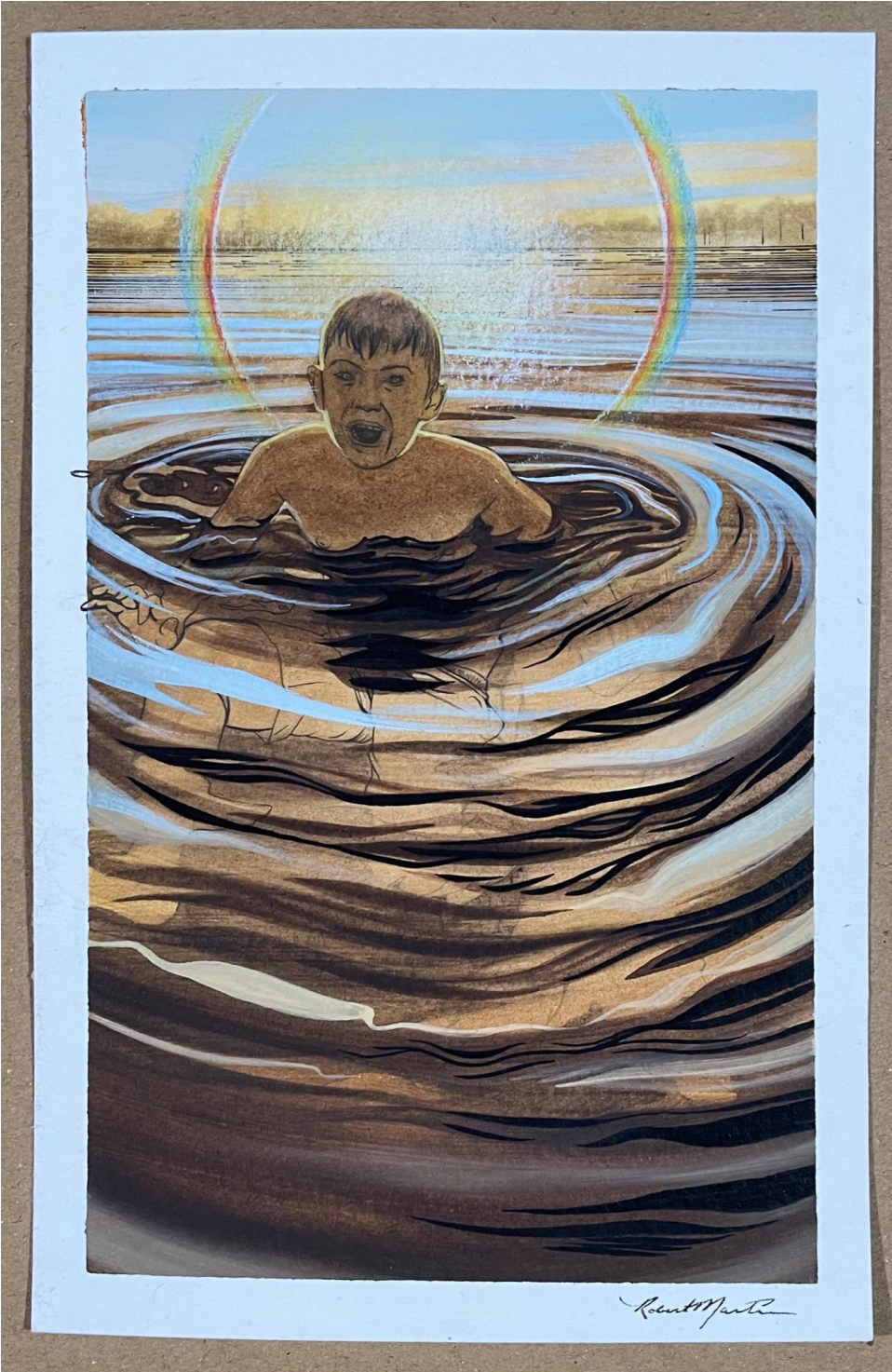


Robert Martin

the story of you and me, 2022

graphite, ink, watercolor and acrylic on paper

10.5h x 7.5w inches



Robert Martin

sketch for Danger in the Water, 2022

graphite, ink, watercolor and colored pencil on paper

8.5h x 5.5w inches



Robert Martin

Dock Portrait, 2022

colored pencil and acrylic on paper

8h x 5w inches

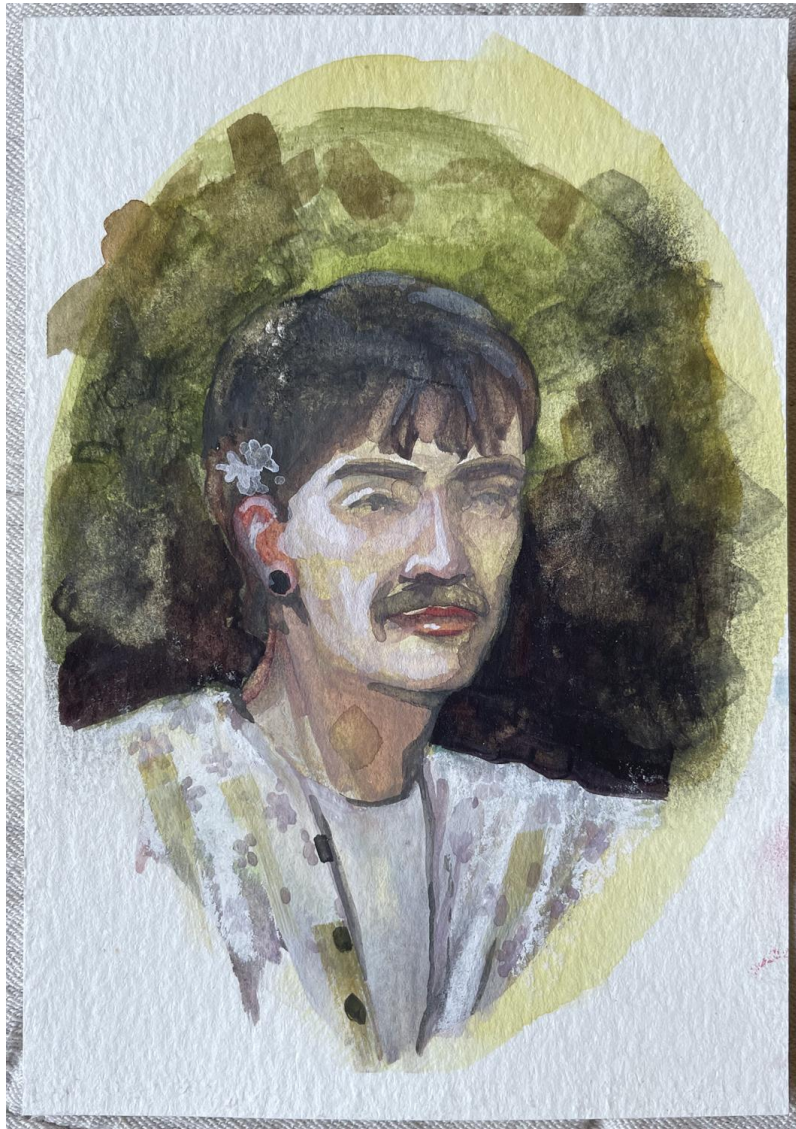


Robert Martin

imagined future self portrait as mom and her Turbo Z, 2019

watercolor, gouache and chalk pastel on paper

4.75h x 6.75w inches



Robert Martin

imagined future self portrait as mom in floral cardigan, 2019

watercolor, gouache and chalk pastel on paper

5h x 3.5w inches

ROBERT MARTIN (b. 1994, Wisconsin)
Lives and works in Chicago, IL



EDUCATION

2021 MFA Studio Practices (Painting & Drawing), CU Boulder
2017 BFA Studio Art (Drawing & Sculpture), University of Wisconsin-Stout

EXHIBITIONS

2023

Purple Martin, The Valley, Taos, NM (solo, upcoming)

2022

Untitled Miami Beach, 1969 Gallery, Miami, FL (upcoming)
Flamboyant Beckoning, 1969 Gallery, New York, NY (solo)
Birds in Art 2022, Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, WI
Adventure Painting, Group Exhibition, Dairy Arts Center, Boulder, CO
The Story of You + Me, Group Exhibition, Union Hall Gallery, Denver, CO
The Future is Queer, Group Exhibition, Bermudez Projects, Los Angeles, CA
American, Who?, *Untitled | Creative Fusions*, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO
Under My Skin, Campeche Gallery, Roma Sur, Mexico City
Leave a Light On, Group Exhibition, The Valley, Taos, NM
After Dark, Group Exhibition, Rule Gallery, Denver, CO
Potluck, Group Exhibition, Lawton Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

2021

Two Bucks, Bermudez Projects, Los Angeles, CA
Legacy, Warner Ball Gallery (Virtual)
The Scenic Route, 1969 Gallery, New York, NY
Armory Off-Site, *Adventure Painting*, New York, NY
Field Day, Outdoor Installation, SEEC Building, CU Boulder
School's Out, Friend of a Friend, Denver, CO
Fly Over, Rural Midwest Artists Cooperative, The HUB Arts & Cultural Center, Rushville, IL
Winter in the Valley, The Valley, Taos, NM
31st Annual Midwest Seasons, The Center for the Visual Arts, Wausau, WI

2020

Street Wise 2020, Bus Stop Gallery - NoBo Art District, Boulder, CO
Flame of a Fire, Sublimation, NYC
2020 King Exhibition, Dept. of Art and Art History, CU Boulder
Urban Biophony, TreeSpace Gallery, CU Boulder Museum of Natural History
Neighborhood Watch, Outdoor Installation, CASE Building, CU Boulder
Great Expectations, GOCA (Gallery of Contemporary Art), Colorado Springs, CO

2019

Present Space, Maybe Blue, Boulder, CO
Under- & Overstories, Canyon Gallery, Boulder Public Library, Boulder, CO

2018

Urban Biophony, Sierra Arts Gallery, Reno, NV
Notes from the Field, Visual Arts Complex, CU-Boulder
Hard Core, MPLS Art-a-Whirl, 1828 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN

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2017

Yess, School of Art & Design Year End Student Show (Juried), Furlong Gallery, UW-Stout
Ethereal, Prometheus Anthology of Literature and Artwork Juried Exhibition, UW-Stout
Trespass, BFA Senior Thesis Solo Exhibition, Gallery 209, UW-Stout

2016

Not It, Fine Arts Association Juried Exhibition, Gallery 209, UW Stout

2015

Into the Woods and Back Out, Gallery 209, UW-Stout
DTZ/Cassidy Turley Juried Exhibition, IDS Center, Minneapolis, MN

PUBLICATIONS & PRINTED WORK

2022

The Hopper, Issue 7.1
Voyage Denver, Daily Inspiration: Meet Robert Martin, April 26
New American Paintings, Issue 159 - MFA Annual 2022
Icon & Spirit, Issue 2, Curated by William Major

2021

Please Come Off-Book, Kevin Kantor, Button Poetry

2019

CU Boulder Field Guide, NEST Studio for the Arts, CU-Boulder

2017

2017 Journal of Student Research (Annual), UW-Stout
Ethereal, Prometheus Anthology of Literature and Artwork (Annual), UW-Stout

2015

DTZ/Cassidy Turley Show - Catalog of Juried Works, Minneapolis, MN

AWARDS/HONORS

2021

Emerging Artist Grant Recipient, New American Paintings

2020

Truscott Scholarship, Dept. of Art and Art History, CU Boulder

2019

Painting & Drawing Scholarship, Dept. of Art and Art History, CU Boulder
NEST Summer Fellowship, NEST Studio for the Arts, CU Boulder

2017

First Place: Installation, Prometheus Annual Anthology of Literature and Artwork

2014

Anderson Ranch Summer Workshop Fellowship, Snowmass Village, CO



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RESIDENCIES & WORKSHOPS

2020

Street Wise Mural Festival, Boulder, CO

2015

Intuitive Drawing with Rob Price, School of Art and Design, UW-Stout
Traditional Japanese Papermaking, Awagami Paper Factory, Tokushima, Japan

2014

BEHOLD: A Seminar On Beauty with TILT Export, Anderson Ranch, Snowmass Village, CO

SPEAKING & ENGAGEMENT

2022

American, Who?, Untitled | Creative Fusions, Denver Art Museum (Upcoming)
Visiting Artist, Advanced Drawing - Alvin Gregorio, CU Boulder
Visiting Artist, Introduction to Queer Theories - Emily Irvin, CU Boulder
Potluck Artists' Talk, Virtual, Lawton Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

2021

The Spirit Survives, Untitled | Creative Fusions, Denver Art Museum
Local Mural Bike Ride, Out Boulder County
Street Wise: Oral Histories Featuring Robert Martin, Street Wise Boulder

2020

Art for a Queer Nature: A Conversation with Robert Martin, OutSources, KGNU
CU Boulder Field Guide Video Series, NEST Studio for the Arts, CU Boulder
Ruralcore Illustration Artist Demonstration Series, Denver Art Museum
Virtual Studio Visit Series w/ Curator Daisy McGowan for GOCA
Art and Prayer Curatorial Discussion, Union Hall, Denver
Great Expectations Gallery Talk, GOCA, Colorado Springs

2018

A Conversation with Adam Milner, Dept. of Art and Art History, CU Boulder

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Beth Rudin deWoody, New York, NY
Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, TX
Jonathan Travis, New York, NY
Sherman & Howard, Block162 (23rd and 24th floors), Denver, CO
University Memorial Center, CU Boulder

