



AN INTERVIEW WITH KAL MANSUR

Kal Mansur is a Canadian artist, living in Toronto where he lives and works as an abstractionist. Painting both large and small scale canvas pieces, Kal brings a mixed media approach to his technique which includes incorporating 3D elements, acrylic paints, and thoughtful layering. With inspiration from the 'Light and Space' movement, and the desire to always learn and grow, Kal's work sets us on a journey that shifts our perspective and feeds our visual appetite.

CG When did you discover your passion for creating abstract art, where did it all begin?

KM After winning the senior scholarship at university for a sculpture I created in class, the positive feedback fuelled my competitive nature. From there I was off and running.

CG With a lot of your creative projects, you work with a multitude of layers and materials, what do you enjoy most about this technique?

KM The technical challenges of working with a multitude of layers keeps me in a constant state of development and invention.

CG Your work seems to be in line with the Light and Space movement, what is it about this style that inspires you to create and express the way you do?

KM The Light and Space movement was the beginning point for me as I explored different directions in my practise. Along the way I added influences like Mark Rothko and Donald Judd into my research and development as an artist.





Future Summary Eighteen, 81 x 81cm (close-up)



Future Summary Twenty, 81 x 81cm (close-up)

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CG You've mentioned previously that you use your work to 'tune visual perception, could you talk a bit more about this?

KM When we enter a dark room, our eyes take some time to adjust to the darkness as we tune into our new conditions. From this perspective, I attempt to "adjust" how the viewer's eyes see my work, changing with differing angles.

CG From layering paints and plexiglass, to using multiple industrial tools and DIY techniques you come across as a very resourceful person. Where did you learn this and is there something special about being involved in the process from start to finish?

KM My university days were spent on a very tight budget and art supplies were expensive, so I learned how to create using less expensive materials. As my career grew I had more access and opportunities to work with high grade materials and tools. From this my interest in alternative uses continued to grow. Involvement from start to finish is just what it means to be an artist. We do because we want to, not because we have to.

CG Just by reading your testimonials and observing your work there is a feeling of depth that can't be ignored, what is the philosophy behind your creations and ideas?

KM I believe the best way to arrive at any kind of truth is a matter of challenging one's own



Future Summary Seventeen, 81 x 81cm

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perspectives. I have been an immigrant four times and have had to evolve my ideas many times; from being a child growing up in a military family, to my days as a competitive athlete, to my art practice.

I attempt to create art that encourages the viewer to change their viewpoint or perspective, so that they might gain the full "picture". At the same time I am constantly pushing my viewpoint on the nature of art and what it means to be an artist.

CG Beyond the upcoming exhibition with the gallery, is there anything exciting you're working on?

KM Currently I'm working on several commissioned projects for clients in New York and Toronto. I also recently completed a suite of twenty paintings for a luxury residential building in Toronto.

CG And lastly, what would your dream project idea be?

KM I would love to create significant artwork for a public space dedicated to learning.



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