

## **TORI KARPEENKO**

### **Bio**

Tori Karpenko received his BFA from Drake University, where he majored in Painting and graduated cum laude. During his sophomore year, he attended the Lorenzo de Medici Institute of Italian Studies in Florence, Italy.

Since moving to Washington in 2000, Tori has exhibited his work regionally in the Pacific Northwest. In 2001, Tori joined the Confluence Gallery and Art Center's Board of Directors, and he was elected Chairman in 2002. Since 2003, he has been active on the Methow Arts teaching roster, where he has led several dynamic learning experiences in the public school system. Since 2008, he has served as a regional ambassador for Artist Trust.

In 2011, Tori began working for TwispWorks, a community inspired project that is repurposing a 6.5 acre, multi-building complex formerly used by the US Forest Service. This complex will be transformed into a hub for creative enterprise. As Director of Campus Operations, Tori manages the building renovations, oversees the Artist in Residence Program, develops a destination education program, and directs numerous cultural events throughout the year.

This year, Tori received funding from Artist Trust through the Grants for Artists Projects to transport and show *The Lookout* at Traver Gallery. *The Lookout* is a cathartic work from a time of personal crisis when Tori found solace in mountain solitude. The result of his studio practice during this time of healing is twenty paintings that explore the transformative power of solitude and quiet contemplation in raw wilderness.

### **Statement**

I explore personal and communal stories through the lens of people, place and the effect they have on each other. I am fascinated by the creation of culture, by our unique responses to our ecosystem, and by the outcomes that emerge from how an individual or a society choose to live.

As I hear constant discussion of how much humans are affecting the natural world, I am equally intrigued by the inverse question: "What effect is the natural world having on me? What effect has it had on us collectively throughout history, and how does it affect us now?"

I know that the landscape I call home has both subconscious and observable impacts on me. Through my personal connection to the seasonal rhythms, quiet undisturbed places, and the garden that I intentionally cultivate, I am grounded in a past, present, and future

understanding of my own vision for 'man' acting as part of 'nature' rather than removed, separate, or outside of it.

As an artist, I hope to inspire and encourage a rising culture that feels and a stronger connection to the landscape surrounding us, and all that we have to learn from it, for the sake of the individual and collective wellbeing.