

LOOKING AT ONE ANOTHER AND BEING CONFUSED IN A BEAUTIFUL WAY

John Skibo reflects on figurative painting, what it means to be human, and produces familiar sculptures.

LAKE WORTH BEACH, FL – **mtn space** is pleased to present *Nothing is Difficult Forever*, a solo show of new works by painter **John Skibo** on view from **April 8th to May 15th**. There will be an opening reception for the exhibition on Friday, April 8th, from 6-9pm. *Nothing is Difficult Forever*, is an attempt to create a world where everyone is important and worthy of representation. Figurative work for Skibo is connected to the time it was made, but also connected to our shared experience throughout time. In painting imagined bodies, he is searching for something that feels like a reflection of now. He is looking for a way to depict the complexity of being a person that is united with other people in our universal struggle.

The figures in Skibo's paintings are distorted with limbs akimbo, detached from what one might expect, they appear to be broken or falling apart. They are not falling apart; they are made that way. He makes them by tracing his own body or that of his partner's. The sculptures have many heads and no distinct race or identity. They are scattered and confused, defined, and rough around the edges. They are made with construction materials like plywood, rigid foam and house paint, mostly leftovers from working as a carpenter on homes that at times date back to the 19th Century.

In these construction materials he sees a connection to the homes we all live in. A relationship is formed between the figure and that which surrounds it by making the sculptures with these materials. A kind of play on the idea of people being a product of their environment. The sculptures wear old clothing that shows the years of wear in the elbows and knees. The clothing is from John's closet, in it he has found inspiration in its simplicity as a garment and a form to paint. Historically only people of great importance could afford to commission artwork. John wants to connect to this history through his paintings and sculptures. He likes the possibility that his work could represent anyone, that a viewer could potentially see themselves in the portraits.

As an adult Skibo has started to understand the advantage of where and to whom he was born. For him these pieces are an exploration of bigger existential questions. He wasn't raised a religious person and struggles with the why of our existence and the why of painting. While painting the light and the dark he finds beauty in these lifeless forms, creating something new that is both outside of himself and about himself. He's searching for answers to bigger questions, in the hope that *Nothing is Difficult Forever*.