

Nasher Public: Paul Winker

June 25 - December 31, 2021

For Nasher Public, painter Paul Winker has made his first sculpture, *Untitled (Shroud)*, using much the same process he follows for his paintings. Winker's paintings start with drawings he makes with his finger on a computer touch pad. These unpremeditated gestures take on an awkward precision in the computer. They are slightly wonky, akin to the simplicity of finger painting, but with a more precise edge as the computer translates the touch of his fingermarks. These computer-mediated finger drawings then become sources for his paintings, which he paints the traditional way with brush on canvas. The Nasher Public commission gave Winker the opportunity to manifest one of his painted shapes in three dimensions. Rather than painting the form on a squared canvas, he produced the wavy rectangle as a free-standing sculptural form, using much the same materials and techniques as his paintings, but adapting them to outdoor display with the technical advice of renowned Dallas architect, Gary Cunningham.

Untitled (Shroud) responds to the specifics of its site, mediating between the angular geometry of the architecture and the wild nature of the landscaping. While Winker comes up with his shapes freely doodling on his touch pad, some resonate with the store of images from archaeology and art history in his head. *Untitled (Shroud)* recalls prehistoric monoliths, as well as modernist evocations of them, unique forms in the landscape that stand out as meaningful monuments. Winker credits two courses he took at UNT in particular as significant to his thinking: an art history seminar on earthworks and environmental art of the 1960s and 70s and a studio art course called Hybrid Forms. The conceptual scope of the earthworks, connecting the present with the ancient past and almost spiritual sense of one's place in the universe, struck a chord with Winker. The Hybrid Forms course, taught by noted painter and professor Vernon Fisher, pushed Winker and other students to explore and incorporate in their practices media outside of their comfort zones. *Untitled (Shroud)* can be seen as a culmination of ruminating on these scholastic experiences for several years: a hybrid of drawing, painting, and sculpture, the manual and the digital, Winker's simple form is a monument for the present moment.

Paul Winker about Complexity in his Work

"I always aim to make work that's simultaneously complex and also very open and approachable. I love the idea that a child might be as attracted to my work as an adult or someone that's versed in art history. I'll often leave clues, hints or references to

iconography, natural forms or other art from the past that I admire, but it's important to me that I continue to compose work in an immediate and concise way that strips it of any pretentiousness or egotism.”

About Paul Winker

Paul Winker is an artist based in Dallas. He received his BFA in Painting and Drawing at the University of North Texas in Denton in 2015 and has been included in several group exhibitions in the area, including at Goss-Michael Foundation, The Power Station, and Texas Women's University. He has also had multiple solo and collaborative presentations at AND NOW gallery in Dallas.

