



Artist Statement

Sarah Bott

This series presents landscapes in abstract form with the ideas of philosopher Immanuel Kant behind them. The theory of “free play” developed by Kant can be described as aesthetic pleasure that is caused when the mind goes back and forth between imagination and understanding. This gives understanding no concept and ultimately there is no determined end to this thought process. I am interested in these ideas in my own work. In my current series of landscape paintings I begin by abstracting maps and landscape imagery in order to imply dimension of mind beyond sense perception. I incorporate forms from nature because they are of the sublime, making the idea of them too massive to imagine. This is the perfect staging ground for free play. I begin with wood panels because of the material’s literal connection to nature and the reference the grain patterns have with topography. I then combine three dimensional elements with flat plains and map imagery to create landscape spaces. Ultimately, rebelling against imitation of sense perception and using internalized motivation to achieve the formlessness of the sublime in nature.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Media</u>	<u>Original Format</u>
Figure 1: Aspen Trees	Painting	Oil on canvas, 1'x2'
Figure 2: Roaming Rams	Painting	Oil on canvas, 1'x2'
Figure 3: Keystone	Painting	Oil on canvas, 1'x2'
Figure 4: Red Rocks	Painting	Oil on canvas, 1'x2'
Figure 5: Untitled	Painting	Oil on canvas, 1'x2'
Figure 6: Free Play 1	Painting	Oil on wood, 2'x4'
Figure 7: Free Play 2	Painting	Oil on wood, 2'x4'
Figure 8: Free Play 3	Painting	Oil on wood, 2'x4'
Figure 9: Free Play 4	Painting	Oil on wood, 4'x4'
Figure 10: Free Play 4 Detail	Painting	Oil on wood, 1'x1'



Figure 1: Aspen Trees.



Figure 2: Roaming Rams.



Figure 3: Keystone.



Figure 4: Red Rocks.



Figure 5: Untitled.



Figure 6: Free Play 1.



Figure 7: Free Play 2.



Figure 8: Free Play 3.



Figure 9: Free Play 4.



Figure 10: Free Play 4 Detail.