



PRESS RELEASE

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Cris Worley Fine Arts  
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Exhibition Title: *Robert Sagerman – Edifice, Fount, Rippling Spaces*

Exhibition Dates: April 15 – May 30, 2026

Opening reception (artist will be in attendance): Wednesday, April 15th, 5 – 8 pm

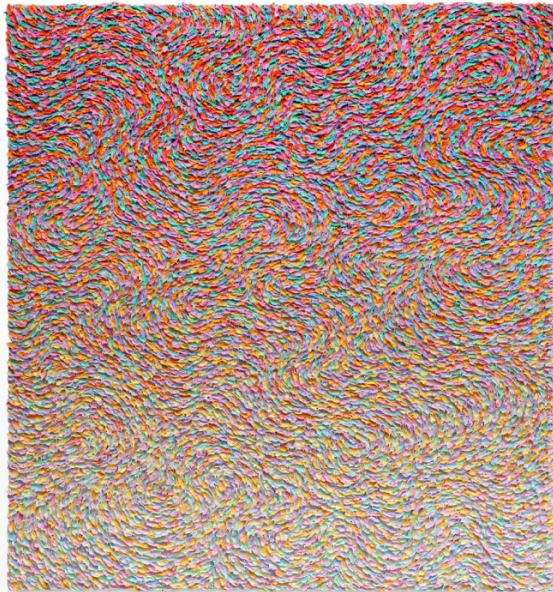


Image caption:  
*Robert Sagerman*  
13,947, 2026  
oil on linen  
39 x 35 inches

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Cris Worley Fine Arts is proud to present strong voices in the contemporary art world by announcing Robert Sagerman's fifth solo exhibition of paintings with the gallery, entitled, *Edifice, Fount, Rippling Spaces*. The exhibition runs April 15<sup>th</sup> – May 30<sup>th</sup>, with an opening reception on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm. The artist will be in attendance. The opening reception runs in tandem with the Design District Gallery Night. Galleries at 1845 Levee St will offer an ice cream social for guests.

*Edifice, Fount, Rippling Spaces* brings together a new body of work by painter Robert Sagerman, whose practice merges rigorous process with meditative inquiry. Sagerman's paintings emerge from a disciplined studio ritual that transforms the act of painting into a sustained state of contemplation. Built through thousands—often tens of thousands—of palette-knife strokes, each work develops slowly as densely layered impasto accumulates across the canvas. The surfaces are so physically rich that Sagerman hand-mills his own oil paints from elemental pigments, allowing for precise control over color, material, and structure.

Underlying this material intensity is an equally structured conceptual framework. Sagerman maintains a detailed ledger for every painting, carefully recording the exact pigments used and the total number of strokes applied. The final stroke count becomes the title of the work, linking the painting's physical formation directly to its conceptual identity. This methodical practice reflects the artist's long-standing engagement with the contemplative traditions of Jewish mysticism, particularly Kabbalistic thought.

The exhibition's title, *Edifice, Fount, Rippling Spaces*, points to the philosophical foundations of Sagerman's work. The "edifice" suggests both the structural substrate of a painting and a medieval Kabbalistic metaphor for the layered spiritual architecture that mediates between the material world and underlying immateriality. The "fount" refers to the generative interface between these realms and also resonates through a linguistic echo in Hebrew: *ma'ayan* ("fount") shares its root letters with *'inyun*, meaning "contemplation." Sagerman draws on this poetic resonance to evoke the internal states through which perception, reflection, and material form converge. The resulting "rippling spaces" are visual and experiential fields—paintings that embody the dynamic movement between physical process and contemplative awareness.

Through this union of structure, repetition, and intuition, Sagerman seeks to cultivate what he describes as a state of simple communion within the act of making. While the conceptual and philosophical frameworks informing the work are complex, the paintings ultimately offer viewers a direct, immersive encounter with color, texture, and time—an invitation to experience painting itself as a space of attentive presence.

Robert Sagerman was born in Queens, New York, and currently lives and works in Jersey City, New Jersey. He received both his BFA (1990) and MFA (1998) from Pratt Institute, where he also earned an MS in Art History. Sagerman later completed an MA in Religious Studies and a Ph.D. in Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. His work has been reviewed in numerous publications including *Art in America*, *NY Arts Magazine*, *Kunstforum International*, and *Art News*, as well as the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Sagerman's paintings are held in major public collections including the Portland Art Museum, the Karl Ernst Osthaus-Museum, and the Museum Für Konkrete Kunst.

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