



## **Axl T. Ernst**

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### **Artist Statement**

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Axl T. Ernst is a Nova Scotian born visual artist currently working in London, Ontario. Over the past 3 years, I have been creating various paintings and drawings which explore the elements of the world around me in both literal and conceptual visual terms. These works are often realized using unconventional drawing, painting, and mixed media applications creating work which is both colourful and textural. Inspiration is often found in natural phenomena that provoke the viewer to consider elements of the natural world they may not normally think of, and also to contemplate their relationship to the Earth and the universe. Most recently, my paintings have been inspired by photos of nebulae published by NASA, referencing naturally observed light phenomenon and technical information from telescopes. Past subjects have also included renderings of both ancient and futuristic fossils, earthly and interplanetary geology.

When approaching new work, I try to always push my previous notions of the materials at hand. Subtle textural elements are created with mixed media and collage elements. Drawings seek to push contrast and use drawing and erasing out techniques to create subtle marks that create depth and movement. Paintings explore various glazing, dripping and splattering techniques. Working with materials in this fashion creates patterns and marks which are often unpredictable and spontaneous. Combined with uses of bright, luminous colours which seek to entice the viewer's visual senses, the works aim to explore the unstable existence of the ever-changing world and universe, and reflects on the excitement but also anxieties of potential catastrophic, worldly and universal events. They challenge viewers to imagine possibilities of an undisputed existing space which is impossible to ever completely understand while being endless, dark and brooding; uncontrollably unstable but ever-existing and exceedingly beautiful and hopeful; a possible lurking threat or the potential to change our entire existence in a single moment for better or worse.