

Dominic J. Lopez

Studio Systems — Texts

Companion texts to the studio manuscript

Artist Statement

Painting begins in the studio as a physical act of attention. My work develops through repeated gestures, surfaces that carry memory, and the accumulation of decisions over time.

Each painting is less an image than a field of activity in which form, pressure, and rhythm reveal themselves through the act of making.

Across the bodies of work *Mythic Language* and *Threshold Fields*, I treat the canvas as a site where meaning emerges through process.

Gesture becomes a language; color and material become forms of thinking.

The studio is therefore not simply a workplace but a sustained environment of inquiry where paintings unfold as long form investigations rather than isolated objects.

Artist Thesis

Painting within this practice functions as a system of inquiry rather than a sequence of individual works.

Each canvas participates in a longer investigation into gesture, field, tension, and surface memory.

The studio becomes the structure that sustains this inquiry. Over time, bodies of work emerge that articulate different pressures within the system.

Mythic Language examines the emergence of symbolic forms and pictorial figures, while *Threshold Fields* explores spatial and gestural conditions in which painting approaches atmosphere or terrain.

Through this framework, painting operates as a long duration practice in which meaning accumulates across time.

Curatorial Introduction

Dominic J. Lopez approaches painting as an evolving studio system.

His canvases are sites of accumulation, where gesture, mark, and color operate as forms of inquiry.

Rather than presenting fixed imagery, the work foregrounds the physical processes through which painting becomes visible.

Across the bodies of work *Mythic Language* and *Threshold Fields*, Lopez investigates how structure emerges through repetition and attention.

The paintings oscillate between abstraction and symbolic suggestion, inviting viewers to experience the surface as an active field rather than a static image.

This approach situates Lopez within a lineage of painters for whom the studio itself becomes the primary site of thought.

Catalogue Essay

In Lopez's paintings, gesture arrives before image.

Marks sweep across the canvas with a sense of immediacy, yet they accumulate slowly, layer upon layer, until the surface begins to hold its own memory.

What emerges is not simply abstraction but a space of resonance.

Color and form circulate through the work like currents.

Some paintings open into fields of atmosphere, while others condense into signs or figures that hover between recognition and mystery.

The viewer encounters a painting not as a finished statement but as an event that continues to unfold through attention.

Museum Biography

Dominic J. Lopez is a Los Angeles–based painter whose work explores painting as a long form studio inquiry.

His practice investigates gesture, field, and surface memory across evolving bodies of work including *Mythic Language* and *Threshold Fields*.

Working from the studio as a sustained site of investigation, Lopez approaches painting as a system through which meaning emerges over time.

Gallery Artist Profile

Dominic J. Lopez is a contemporary painter based in Los Angeles.

His work explores gesture, abstraction, and symbolic form through an evolving studio practice.

Recent paintings from the series *Mythic Language* and *Threshold Fields* examine how marks, color, and layered surfaces generate meaning through the physical act of painting.

Lopez treats the studio as a sustained system of inquiry in which each painting contributes to a broader investigation of gesture, field, and symbolic form.