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Evolution of Island

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Abstract

Evolution of Island emerged from the depths of an ocean of blue paint. My process involves observation of nature: I remember scuba diving in Thailand in the Andaman Sea and having a spiritual experience underwater while observing Christmas-tree worms pop in and out of the coral.

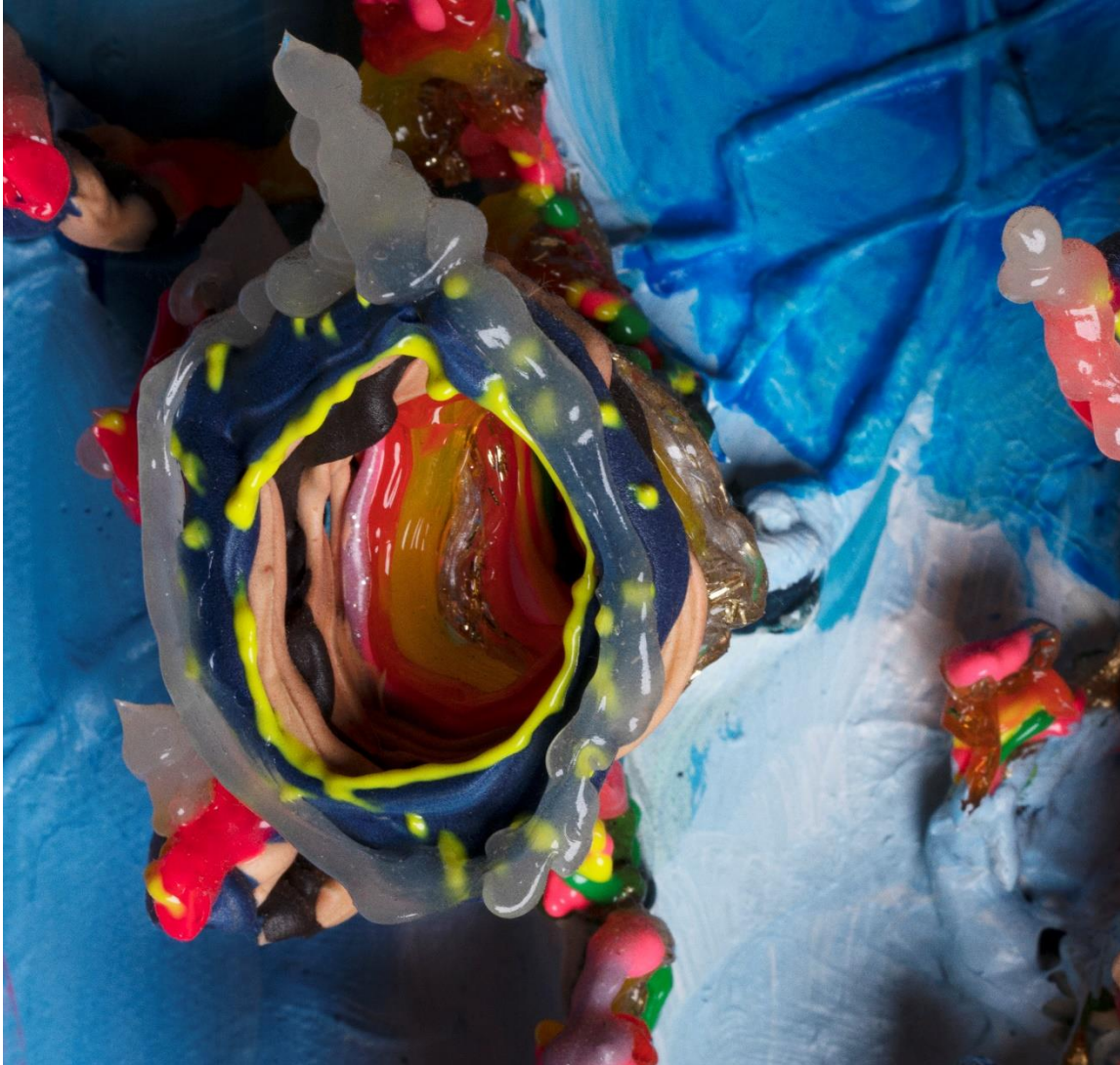
Keywords

Art, Art Making, Environment

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“Evolution of Island” 8’x6’ (96" x 72") mixed media on canvas, emerged from the depths of an ocean of blue paint. My process involves observation of nature: I remember scuba diving in Thailand in the Andaman Sea and having a spiritual experience underwater while observing Christmas-tree worms pop in and out of the coral.

My process of layering paint in this fashion is my own unique process that was discovered through experimentation. It mimics the slow growth and layering of coral reefs. The strange shapes that the colorful, coral-like sculptures make draw the viewer in. They make the viewer want to reach out and touch. Some people say it makes them want to eat it, as if it were candy.

This painting operates from far-away and up-close; one must stand back to take in the topographic “bird’s-eye-view”, similar to what one may see when flying over the ocean in a plane or helicopter. It also beckons one to move closer to examine the minute sandcastles made of paint.

There are up to 25 layers of paint in most sections of this coral reef painting. Each layer was applied using either a small squeeze bottle or a frosting bag. Each layer took between 24 and 48 hours to dry and could only be applied one at a time due to the weight of the wet paint layer.

The top layer of paint contains glow-in-the-dark pigment, similar to actual forms in nature which possess bioluminescence.

This painting was created over a period of three years, symbolic of the slow rate of growth of our coral reefs found in tropical waters.