

Jason Willaford: Bio

Using large brushes and his entire arm in a dynamic, visceral bravura, the artist builds — in thick impasto — a bright mosaic-like surface that eschews local color and highlights his singular way of demarcating zones of dark and light. "It's kind of the way I see the world," Willaford says, "seeing in highlights and shadows" — a perception intrinsically linked to the training the eye receives through hunting and fishing: the glimmering of water that catches the light; the reflections on foliage among trees. "I'm not trying to create an illusion through shading and blending." During a time dominated by discourse about artificial intelligence and other abstractions, Willaford, whose muse is honesty, says, "a representational narrative of the human experience was as honest as you could get."

Jason Willaford received his BFA from Florida State University where he studied under Jim Roche and Color Field painter Trevor Bell. After years as an encaustic painter in Marfa, Texas, he shifted his focus to vinyl-based constructions, which were exhibited in a solo exhibition at Oklahoma Contemporary in 2014. In the summer of 2015, Willaford participated in a residency at the former home and studio of Elaine de Kooning in East Hampton, NY and presented the resulting body of work in a solo show at Dallas Contemporary that fall. Willaford's work can be found in over 200 private and the public collections, including Bloomingdales, Toyota, and Neiman Marcus, among others. He lives and works in Dallas, TX.

