



**RENASCENT** MARK ENGEL  
5/13/26-8/10/26

STEVENSON  
ARTS FOUNDATION

Miro Gallery 181 E Santa Clara St, San Jose, CA 95113

# Exhibition Introduction

In *Renascent*, Mark Engel explores the human body as a site of power, transformation, and renewal. His paintings present the figure not as a fixed form, but as something in constant flux—expanding, dissolving, and reconfiguring in response to internal and external forces. Through this lens, the body becomes a dynamic system, charged with both physical intensity and emotional depth.

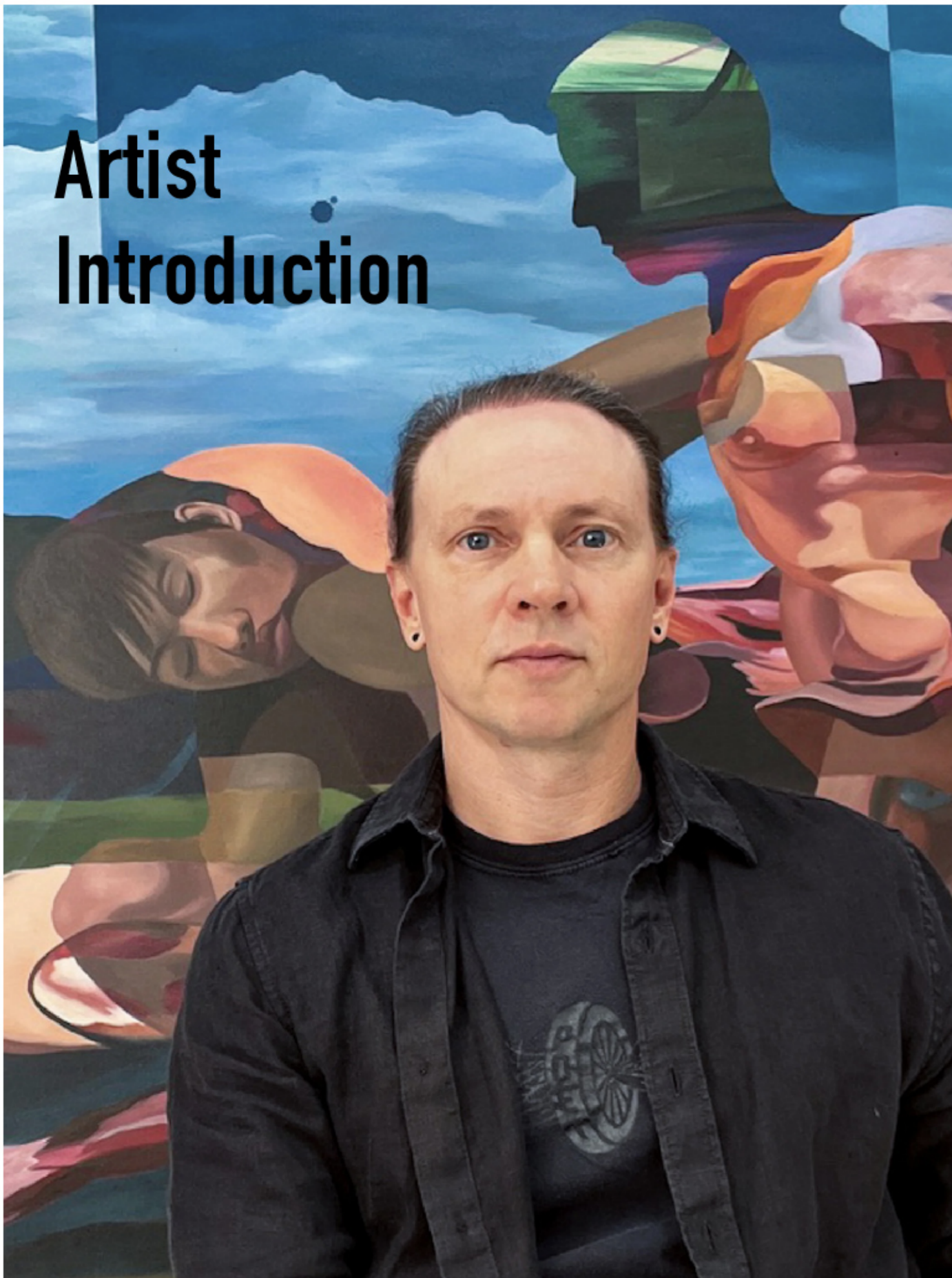
Engel interweaves human forms with botanical elements, creating hybrid figures that embody both strength and vitality. Here, power is not defined solely by structure or control, but by growth, adaptability, and the ability to transform. The organic presence of floral forms introduces a sense of regeneration and cyclical life, suggesting that resilience can emerge through softness as much as through force.

This duality—between strength and fragility, tension and release—mirrors the broader rhythms of life. The body is portrayed as porous and evolving, shaped by continuous change rather than fixed identity. Engel's process-driven approach, built through layering and revision, reinforces this sense of becoming, allowing each work to carry traces of its own transformation.

Presented at a time when global attention turns toward the FIFA World Cup, *Renascent* offers a parallel meditation on the body in motion. While the world celebrates physical performance, endurance, and competition, Engel redirects that energy inward—toward the psychological, emotional, and organic dimensions of human vitality. His work expands the idea of strength beyond athleticism, proposing a more nuanced vision of power rooted in growth, resilience, and perpetual renewal.

*Renascent* ultimately invites viewers to reconsider the body as a living, evolving force—one that is not defined by stability, but by its capacity to change, adapt, and continuously come into being.

# Artist Introduction



Mark Engel is a figurative painter whose practice investigates the body as a site of transformation, shifting perception, and psychological depth. Drawing on themes of connection, multiplicity, and the fluid nature of selfhood, Engel builds layered compositions that interweave the figure with landscape, gesture, and abstraction. His paintings explore the tension between form and dissolution, using fragmentation and distortion to reflect transitional states and the porous boundaries between interior and exterior experience. Engel's approach is rooted in process and intuition. Each composition unfolds through cycles of addition and subtraction, allowing unconscious associations and emotional resonance to emerge. By balancing structure with flux, his work invites reflection on the instability of identity in a post-digital world shaped by constant change and relational complexity.

His recent solo shows include *Shifting Terrain* at Triton Museum of Art, *Shapeshifters* at Know Future Gallery, and *Constellations* at Vargas Gallery, and numerous group shows including Ryan Graff Contemporary, Baton Rouge Gallery Center for Contemporary Art, Limner Gallery, and 33 Contemporary Gallery. His work has been featured in multiple magazines including *Artsin Square*, *Content Magazine*, and *Curatory Magazine*.

Engel received an MFA from San Jose State University and is a professor at Mission College in Santa Clara, California. He has contributed to arts education through teaching residencies and faculty exhibitions. His ongoing exploration of the figure offers a visual language for the complexities of becoming.



**Inner Circle**

2024

48" x 60"

acrylic on canvas

## After the Flood

2024

60" x 48"

acrylic on canvas





## Procession

2024

48" x 36"

acrylic on canvas



## Bloom

2025

24" x 18"

acrylic on canvas

**Turning Edge**

2024

24" x 18"

acrylic on canvas





Echo Chamber

2024

30" x 40"

acrylic on canvas

**Beyond the Horizon**

2025

48" x 36"

acrylic on canvas





**Cross-Pollinator**

2025

40" x 30"

acrylic on canvas



**Gatekeeper**

2024

48" x 36"

acrylic on canvas



**Flower Power**

2025

48" x 36"

acrylic on birch

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