

## Artist Statement

When a smelter places crushed ore in the heat of a furnace, the scoria rises to the surface while a puddle of gold forms beneath. That golden puddle beneath a charred crust of ash is the subject of every artistic excavation that I undertake. I want my work to reveal something precious, something authentic and beautiful; something that resonates beyond the mere application of paint to surface. I seek to scrape away the flaky layer of ash and impurity so that I might expose something of substance.

### “Revelations in Isolation”

For centuries hermits of almost every imaginable religion or philosophical background have sought a contemplative life of ascetic solitude in an effort to arrive at greater understanding of the universe. Isolation it seems has the power to refine meandering and unfocused minds. In the emptiness of a solitary place, the mind will abandon its numerous and mostly gratuitous half-formed thoughts, thus clearing territory in which fertile insights might grow unhindered.

For the past three years, I have lived and worked in Northern Wyoming, and know something of hermitic solitude. There are perhaps few places in this country that are so spare. And yet in the emptiness of my surroundings I have found great insight in the exploration of simple and equally spare visual ideas. I have discovered that there is very little that is absolutely necessary. This body of work represents a clean, unadorned record of key visual insights that have been cultivated under the clarity of isolation. And as a mind emptied of all artifice may be filled with great thoughts, a painting that is lean enough may be able to allow room for real revelation.