

**UPCOMING SHOW**

Up to 12 works

**March 12-31, 2018**

Altamira Fine Art  
 7038 E. Main Street  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
 (480) 949-1256  
 www.altamiraart.com

**SHOW LOCATION SCOTTSDALE, AZ****ROBERT MCCAULEY***Abandoning the sublime*

**R**obert McCauley didn't set out to become a painter of black bears, but with their ability to stand on their back two legs and look the viewer straight in the eye, they became the perfect metaphor for humanity. "Sometimes I feel like I'm a guy in a bear suit, and these are self-portraits," he says. McCauley's paintings of bears and other wildlife will be showcased in a solo show titled *Western Edge*

at Altamira Fine Art's Scottsdale gallery.

McCauley takes his inspiration from 19<sup>th</sup> century painting and literature, particularly English philosopher Edmund Burke's concept of the sublime. "When we look at nature from a distance, there's no other word to describe it other than awe," McCauley says of the idea. "When I paint, that's the point I'm starting from."

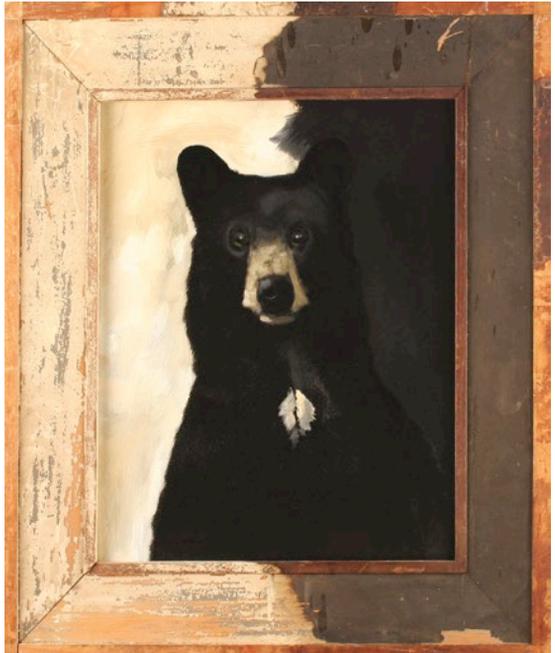
In *Abandoning the Sublime*, animals who

live in a world that has become increasingly overrun by industry are escaping their frame. With rivers overrun by silt and trees being clear cut, the Burke's sublime has disappeared, and McCauley imagines the fauna saying, "That's it, I'm out of here."

With conscious use of text and framing in his imagery, McCauley invites the viewer to think more broadly than the subject matter. "If I put a



*Pale Moon Rising*, oil, 29 x 20"



*A Brief History of Post-War Painting #2*, oil, 27 x 24"



Abandoning the Sublime #2, oil, 30 x 36"



Robert McCauley stands in front of his work.

bear's head in a round frame, it makes you think about a human portrait, and about the bear as our brethren rather than something that's lower down on the hierarchy. Because, in my view, there is no hierarchy. We're all animals."

*A Brief History of Post-War Painting #2* features dark paint bleeding through the background and consuming the frame, splitting the image starkly in half and bringing to mind opposition, though to what is up to the viewer. "It's important to me that people understand it's bigger than the animal," McCauley says.

*Western Edge* runs from March 12 to 31, and a reception for the artist will take place March 15 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. 🐾

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to 

[www.westernartcollector.com](http://www.westernartcollector.com)