

Michael Cook was born in Puerto Rico and educated in The United Kingdom and the United States. He currently lives in the high country of New Mexico. His nuclear and thermonuclear paintings are one of the earliest concentrated bodies of work in painting that examined the development and use of the atom by conflating the visual language of alchemical notation and particle physics. His interest in the ability of painting pictorial conventions and practice to present essential truths by employing a method of visual semiotics continues to fascinate him. As Kathleen Stewart Howe wrote in her essay on the exhibition *Veneer*; "What are the conditions under which objects become visible in culture? What is the personal and human significance of those visual manifestations? These are questions Cook has pursued in his paintings since the bubble chamber paintings of the late 1970's."

Michael Cook's rich and varied work has been exhibited widely in such venues as Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY, Museum of Fine Arts of the Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM Canfield Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL, University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, Hemphill Fine Arts, Washington, D.C. , Artemisia Gallery, Chicago, IL, Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, NM, The Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe, NM, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT., Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, Cambridge Multi-Cultural Arts Center, Cambridge, MA, University Art Museum, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, Museum of Fine Arts of the Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM, Shidoni Contemporary Gallery, Tesuque, NM, Jayne Baum Gallery, New York, NM, Iannetti/Lanzone Gallery, San Francisco, CA, Linda Durham Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, Janet Steinberg Gallery, San Francisco, CA Center for the Visual Arts, Boulder, CO, The Wenger Gallery, Los Angeles, California The Wenger Gallery, San Diego, CA, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH Museum of Fine Arts, The Museum School Gallery, Boston, MA, University Art Gallery, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, WI, The Grayson Gallery, Chicago, IL N.A.M.E. Gallery, Chicago, IL, The Kitchen, New York, NY, Hunter College Art Gallery, New York, NY, Tangeman Fine Arts Gallery, University of Cincinnati, OH The Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR as well as commercial galleries.

Exhibitions have received critical attention in The New York Times, Art News, The New Art Examiner, The San Francisco Chronicle and THE Magazine among others. He has been the recipient of a number of awards such as Outstanding Teacher of the Year at the University of New Mexico, Illinois Arts Council Individual Visual Artist Fellowship and a prestigious National Endowment for the Arts Individual Artists Fellowship.