

Julian Kreimer  
Artist Statement

These paintings were each made in one day, on location in the drought-stricken landscape near San Diego, CA in 2015. This is the western landscape that we adore from the 19th century, sprinkled with tacky-tacky houses everywhere and the inevitable, seemingly unstoppable encroachment of development. The Southern California landscape is such a big part of the television culture I grew up with in the 70s through 90s, that even before I'd visited, I knew this landscape in a very deeply superficial way of seeing it my whole lifetime. The paintings grew out of a struggle between my actual vision of the place, standing there with my brushes in the desert suburbs, and my TV-derived idea of what I was seeing.

I construct the space in the pictures develops like plates in printmaking, going through the spatial planes of the motif, usually painting from back to front, starting with the sky and working my way forward to the vine on the fence. The fence will be the penultimate thing and the vine is the last thing.

Painting these each in a day forces me to maintain a rigor, a ruthlessness in what will make the paintings read as space. If I've got an hour and a half to nail the light before the sun gets into late afternoon mode, it's really important that I figure out how achieve the most impact with the least effort: judo painting.

-January 2016