

JAVA
MAGAZINE



GARTH WEISER
Visual Artist



Left: Garth Weiser in the studio. Photo: Adam Fedderly

Above: Garth Weiser, Wall Painting for White Flag Projects 125" x 686", 2010, acrylic, tempera, and acrylic latex on wall

Garth Weiser is a painter and visual artist who grew up in Arizona, but was drawn to New York City to attend Cooper Union for his undergraduate art degree.

"At the time, Cooper Union was a free school," he explained. "And it's a place where they teach art, architecture and engineering, so that interested me."

Weiser is originally from Montana, but when he was nine years old in 1988, his family moved to Arizona for his dad's job teaching ceramics at ASU. In fact, both of his parents are potters.

After finishing high school at New School for the Arts, a high school with a curriculum focused on visual arts, drama and other performance, Weiser began to look around for the right city.

"I was thinking New York or LA. New York was important. But for me, at the time, it was about the school. I had heard about Cooper Union and thought it was interesting," he said.

Weiser started out in New York City with

a small core group of friends and gradually expanded his network on his own. One of his long-time friends, visual and performance artist Ryan McNamara, has also enjoyed a highly successful art career and is also from Phoenix.

New York City seems to be an excellent launch site for Weiser. His innovative, shape- and space-specific paintings have been shown at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Prague Biennial, Galerie Lisa Ruyter in Vienna and even as a special part of the recent Big New Field: Artists in the Cowboys Stadium Art Program, held by the Dallas Museum of Art. One of his paintings was purchased for installation at the Dallas Cowboys stadium. Weiser's work was recently shown at the Altman Siegel Gallery in San Francisco and in Torino, Italy, last fall. His mainstay is Casey Kaplan Gallery in Chelsea, where he has an upcoming show in May.

"I haven't had another job outside of art since 2005," he said. "[New York City] is a place where you can make a living—a real

living—in art. There's a base of collectors out here who support what you do."

His wife, New York City-native Francesca DiMattio, is also an artist. Her paintings have been shown at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, and Saatchi Gallery in London. Weiser met DiMattio at Cooper Union when he was there working on his BFA. The couple married two years ago and live in Chelsea.

He is planning to create an outdoor installation this summer with the Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND). He will work with a fabricator to construct a large wall out of layers of tempera paint. Because the paint sculpture will be constructed outdoors and then completely left to the elements, it will eventually weather and disintegrate, leaving behind different-colored, melted paint puddles.