

PAUL SEFTEL

Born 1974, London, England
Cerrillos, New Mexico
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Paul Seftel works at the threshold between landscape and abstraction, tracing the gradual dissolution of spatial certainty into atmosphere. Horizons and terrains are suggested rather than described, suspended within luminous fields that shift with light and the movement of the viewer. The paintings unfold slowly, asking for duration rather than immediate resolution.

Within a broader lineage of atmospheric painting in which surface becomes environment, Seftel approaches the canvas as a site of perceptual instability. Depth is neither fixed nor fully relinquished; it hovers. Illumination acts not as spotlight but as condition, recalibrating chromatic relationships and revealing subtle variations embedded within the ground.

Mineral pigments and finely graded particulates are layered into the surface to create nuanced modulations of reflectivity and absorption. These material decisions are optical in intent, shaping how light is held, dispersed, or quietly refracted. The work resists spectacle and technological mediation, relying instead on the physical intelligence of matter and the viewer's sustained attention.

Scale deepens this encounter. Monumental works extend laterally, engaging peripheral vision and bodily orientation, while smaller paintings condense the same atmospheric inquiry into concentrated fields. Landscape remains as atmospheric memory—an echo rather than an image—inviting viewers into a space where perception shifts, lingers, and remains open.

EDUCATION

2003–2004 School of Applied Arts, Denver, CO

1993–1996 Edinburgh University & Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland

GRANTS

2025 Santa Fe County / RDC Grant

2020 Monterey County Arts Council Grant

RESIDENCIES

2016 American Tin Cannery Artist Residency, CA

2011 Kalulau Artist Residency, HI

2010 David & Julia White Artist Residency, Costa Rica

2009 Red03 Galleria Residency, Barcelona, Spain

2008 SVA Public Art Summer Residency, New York, NY

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & IMMERSIVE INSTALLATIONS

2021–2025 Seftel Gallery, Cerrillos, NM

2017 Astra Space, Alameda, CA

2012 Light from a Stone, PS Project Space, New York, NY

2011 The Ninth Wave, PS Project Space, New York, NY

2010 Post History, PS Project Space, New York, NY

2009 Totems, Red03 Gallery, Barcelona, Spain

2007 Pigment and Patina, Midoma Gallery, New York, NY

MAJOR INSTALLATIONS / COMMISSIONS

2022 Lobby Installation, Washington DC

2018 Residential Lobby Installation, Long Island City, NY

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020 Copelouzou Family Museum, Athens, Greece
2018 Process in Progress, Monterey Museum of Art, CA
2018 Miniatures, Monterey Museum of Art, CA
2013 An Abstract View, Thomas & Paul Gallery, London
2012 Young Collectors Exhibition, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY
2011 RHM Benefit, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY
2011 Geronimo Intervention, Armory Week (VOLTA, Pulse, ADAA), New York, NY

PUBLICATIONS

2026 *Field Guide to the Art World* (forthcoming)
2020 *Light & Matter* (artist monograph)
2018 *Post History: Lost American Dreams*
2014 *The Comet's Tale*

PRESS

2023 Pasatiempo, Santa Fe New Mexican
2018 Monterey Weekly
2017 Monterey Herald
2015 ArtVoices Magazine
2014 The New York Times
2010 Architectural Digest

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021–Present. Founder / Director, *Seftel Gallery*, Cerrillos, NM
Artist-run exhibition and research space dedicated to immersive installation and cross-disciplinary inquiry.

2011–2014. Founder / Director, *PS Project Space*, New York, NY
Artist-run exhibition and experimental platform for collaboration and interdisciplinary practice.