

'SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A DANCE AND A BOXING MATCH'

Astoria artist Darren Orange talks about his drive, creative process and first solo show at Imogen Gallery

By **KAELIA NEAL**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Darren Orange is not a traditional artist. With a focus on non-representational abstract, he uses materials like his hands and pallet knives rather than paint brushes and scrapers.

"I don't wait for inspiration. I work through the process to find inspiration," he said. "The best works come when I take a big risk."

Orange's first solo show at Astoria's Imogen Gallery, "Under the Surface," runs through Monday, July 3.

His work has been exhibited in Graeter Gallery, Peoples Gallery and Launch Pad Gallery in Portland, Oregon, Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition in Brooklyn, New York, Shidoni Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico and elsewhere.

His studio is off Tongue Point Road next to storage units, boat builders and fabrication businesses.

"I like that blue-collar work atmosphere," he said. "I think that's the way I value my work."

Orange works on a minimum of a dozen paintings at one time. "It's like playing 20 games of chess at the same time," he said.

When painting on a fresh canvas, Orange is never sure how the finished product will look. After making progress, he might end up turning the painting on its side.

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PHOTOS BY COLIN MURPHEY/THE DAILY ASTORIAN
TOP RIGHT: Orange uses a variety of non-traditional means to apply paint to the canvas. RIGHT: Astoria artist Darren Orange ponders over a work in progress in his studio.



ABOVE: "Beard," by Darren Orange
LEFT: "Reach," by Darren Orange

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

