

SQUARE ONE

Square One Gallery

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*Artist Rachel English returns to Square One Gallery with **Petrichor**, a solo exhibition of monumental cloudscapes, electric storms, and celestial paintings.*

The Texas-based artist's sophomore exhibition with Square One Gallery turns toward the sky and all that it has long asked us to consider.

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Square One Gallery is pleased to present *Petrichor*, Rachel English's sophomore solo exhibition with the gallery, in which the artist turns back toward the sky and all that it has long asked us to consider. The exhibition will be on view from September 12th through October 10th, 2026, at Square One Gallery in St. Louis, Missouri. The opening reception will be held Saturday, September 12th from 6–9pm CST.

From monumental cloud formations and electric storms to the distant reaches of the night sky, English presents the atmosphere as both a physical force and an enduring source of existential inquiry. These paintings draw the eye upward toward phenomena that can be witnessed, studied, and rendered, yet never fully possessed or understood.

Taking its title from the scent that rises when rain meets dry earth, *Petrichor* evokes the lingering evidence of an atmospheric event. It is an encounter between atmosphere and terrain, made perceptible through something that cannot be seen. Although the ground remains absent from English's compositions, its presence is quietly understood. Every cloud, storm, and constellation is observed from somewhere below, placing the viewer within the vastness of the image while leaving its boundaries unresolved. *Petrichor* becomes the invisible thread joining sky to earth, the infinite to the finite, and the divine to the mortal. It gives physical presence to what descends from above, translating forces of unimaginable scale into something sensed through the body and held within human memory.

Born and raised beneath the wide skies of Texas, English has developed a lifelong intimacy with their shifting light, depth, and character. Guided primarily by photographs taken near her home in the Texas Hill Country, she translates fleeting atmospheric events into layered oil paintings of remarkable luminosity and dimension. Her longstanding interests in astronomy and physics inform this close observation, while her omission of the horizon releases the sky from a fixed sense of place. Clouds extend beyond the canvas, illuminated forms emerge from deep expanses of color, and brief natural phenomena assume an almost timeless presence.

"These paintings are my personal way of wrestling heaven to earth, in an effort to satisfy the human urge to cherish Existence, and to revere its transcendent meaning." – Rachel English

Within *Petrichor*, the sky is neither backdrop nor symbol of a singular belief. It is a vast, changing presence through which English considers the human condition and our desire to locate ourselves within

something larger. The works hold the physical and the unknowable in the same frame, returning to those moments when the natural world appears to exceed ordinary comprehension. Like petrichor rising after rain, they suggest that the unknowable is not distant from human experience, but revealed through our encounter with it.

Square One Gallery is a contemporary art gallery located in the historic Central West End of St. Louis, Missouri. Established in 2024, Square One Gallery strives to showcase artistic voices while connecting St. Louis to the greater international arts community with a diverse, global roster of exceptional artists. Our mission is to preserve the integrity of the artist as a steward of creativity for generations to come, while offering a knowledgeable collecting experience to guide acquisitions in a fair and open manner. With a robust exhibition program, collaborations, and cultural projects, we are committed to ensuring artists continue to lend their vital talents to inspire and enrich the world.