

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Garvey | Simon presents -
Karl Hartman: *The Nature of Nature*
January 21 – February 27, 2026
DFN Projects, 41 E 57th Street, 11th Floor
Opening: Wednesday, January 21, 5-7pm



Garvey | Simon is pleased to present *The Nature of Nature*, a solo exhibition of oil paintings by **Karl Hartman**. With meticulous technique and a softly surreal quality, Hartman transforms familiar scenes into meditations on perception, wonder, and the delicate balance between humanity and the natural world.

Hartman's imagery spans the vast prairie skies of his youth and the dense New Jersey forests of his present life—two terrains that continue to nourish his vision. His paintings capture fleeting moments—whorls of clouds over a shimmering lake, a storm front looming over a country road, or milkweed seeds spiraling into the air—with an almost scientific precision and poetic sensibility. Drawing on his dual background as both **artist and geologist**, Hartman approaches the land not merely as subject but as an active, living process. ***The influence of my experience as a geologist was to further value close observation of my environment... and gain an appreciation for natural history as well as what is unique.*** -- 2025 artist statement

Hartman's artistic practice balances disciplined observation with his own intuition. His compositions often begin as simple sketches drawn from memory and photographs of meaningful locations, then develop through multiple layers of oil paint into dreamlike visions of everyday scenes, transformed by light and weather. The artist's reverence for natural processes—erosion, growth, decay, and transformation—is seen most in his paintings of forest life.

Hartman's work embodies what Emerson described as the "harmony of both"—the meeting of human perception and natural beauty. His paintings do not idealize nature as distant or untouchable but rather invite viewers into moments of quiet transcendence found in the familiar. ***It is the harmony and joyous surprise found there—on the plains or in the woods—that often triggers a concept for a painting.***

Through his frozen-in-time imagery, Hartman reminds us that wonder is not the domain of the exotic or the faraway—it lies, instead, in our attentiveness to the world around us.

About the Artist

Karl Hartman (b. 1956, Montana) lives and works in New Jersey. He holds a BS in geology from the University of Oklahoma and an MFA in painting from the School of Visual Arts, NYC, disciplines that continue to inform his creative process. His paintings have been exhibited nationally and are held in numerous private and public collections. Hartman's work captures the enduring dialogue between observation and imagination, science and spirit—a dialogue at the heart of *The Nature of Nature*.

Exhibition Details

Location: DFN Projects, 41 East 57th Street, 11th Floor

Exhibition Dates: January 21 – February 27, 2026

Gallery Hours: Monday – Friday, 11-4pm

Opening Reception: Wednesday, January 21, 5-7pm

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