

TURNER CARROLL

Matt King

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Matt King painted with light. Although King is best known for his role as Meow Wolf's co-founder, a maximalist immersive maze, his personal work lay bare his complicated psyche through hyper-personal abstract expressionism. King experimented with the power of light by affixing delicate custom-built neon sculptures to his paintings as brush strokes. The effect is a playful interaction of color that gives his work a uniquely "alive" feeling.

Each painting was created with King's intensive investigation of history, politics, religion, all filtered through the experience of having an irregular mind. His unbridled compositions reflect the awe of the miracles of existence, spiritual parables, and the Big Bang. You can see his intellectual navigation through the circuitry of the works, and his physical, spiritual, and creative searching in the densely painted visual networks.

Notably, King's work is layered. He would constantly paint over older works allowing the remnants of the lines to peek through, producing a palimpsest of his past selves through these explorations. "Today is a new day, I can't hold onto yesterday's thoughts," he would say. As obsessively as he sought information about the history of the world, he sought to investigate himself in this way to understand the mystery of his own existence. His paintings are a map of his being: relentlessly optimistic, chaotic, layered, filled with kaleidoscopic mazes. He held a singular desire to convey the vastness of his inner landscape through art on his path to grappling with infinity.

Matt returned to the infinity he was exploring far too soon. He passed away July 9, 2022 at the age of 37. He is survived by his mother Mitzi King, his brother Michael King, sister-in-law Emily King, and his fiancée Han Santana-Sayles. He became a beautiful prism of light himself: we saw him when the sky opened in double rainbows every day for weeks following his death, as if he was still painting with light on the other side.