

MICHAEL SUMMERS



Mixed Media on Canvas

195 SN, 25 AP, 10PP

20" x 30"

COLOR PLAY

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BY MICHAEL SUMMERS

Color Play, the newest edition in Michael Summers' coveted rain series, revels in life's unexpected joys and discoveries. Forsaking the protection of the mother's perpetual watch, these young tigers leap out into the colorful rain, lending all of their energy to their play. Mimicking life, Summers alludes to the risks and freedom that come with innocence. Children are not hindered by fear, just as the tiger cub is not afraid to splash in the rainbow puddles. The cubs' curiosity leads them to embrace what is different and they are forever changed by the experience.

Michael Summers accurately represents each figure by sketching and studying the movement and behavior of animals. Often visiting the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park to take photographs and make quick sketches, Summers seeks each animal's individual personality. "Every species," explains Summers, "has certain traits that they lean towards that in certain ways reflect or mimic human actions—interactions—and emotions. And then, each individual animal has its own personality." With that word—personality—Michael Summers shows the viewer how we see our own humanity reflected in the vibrant world around us.

Taking that leap of faith and being willing to experience change becomes more challenging over time. Summers reminds us to never lose sight of our own potential and get the most out of life. He views the world as extraordinary where others see the ordinary and urges us to have the courage to delve into the unknown.