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PichiAvo 2018 Orphical Hymn to the Graces Spray, Acrylic and Oil on Canvas 67" x 165" (170cm x 420cm)

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CONTEMPORARY - GRAFFITI - STREET ART

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11am to 4pm THURS FRI SAT SUN
818 Tombstone Canyon, Bisbee AZ



BILL MEAD

GRAVITY & WONDER



JUNE 27TH - AUG 16, 2026

GALLERY
818

In *Gravity & Wonder*, the new exhibition of paintings by Bill Mead, we're invited into a world that feels at once familiar and impossibly altered... a place where scale slips, logic bends, and the ordinary becomes quietly miraculous. His paintings do not shout their surrealism; instead, they ease us into it, allowing the uncanny to emerge from within the recognizable rhythms of landscape and daily life.

At first glance, Mead's work appears rooted in tradition. His brushwork carries echoes of plein-air painting, his compositions recall pastoral scenes, and his subjects, fields, trees, figures, belong to a long lineage of landscape art. But this sense of familiarity is precisely what gives his work its power. Mead constructs a visual contract with the viewer, only to gently disrupt it. A floating umbrella, an outsized strawberry, a gesture extended toward something just beyond comprehension... these are not dramatic ruptures, but subtle shifts that recalibrate our sense of reality.



What distinguishes Mead's approach is restraint. The surreal elements in his paintings are not exaggerated to the point of spectacle; they exist with the same visual authority as everything else in the scene. There is no hierarchy between the plausible and the impossible. As a result, the viewer is not positioned as an observer of fantasy, but as a participant in a world where such occurrences feel entirely natural. Mead does not ask us to question whether something is real, he asks us to accept that reality itself may be more elastic than we assume.

This elasticity is deeply tied to perception and memory. Mead's landscapes feel less like specific locations and more like recollections - places shaped as much by emotion as by geography. The exaggerated scale of objects, the peculiar stillness of figures, and the theatricality of the sky all suggest a psychological terrain. His work operates in the space between seeing and remembering, where details are heightened, rearranged, or imbued with symbolic weight.

There is also a quiet humanity in these scenes. The figures that populate Mead's paintings are often solitary, engaged in small, almost tentative actions: reaching, observing, standing in contemplation. They are not overwhelmed by the strangeness around them; rather, they seem to accept it with a kind of calm curiosity. This composure mirrors the viewer's own experience. We are not confronted.... we are invited.

In an era saturated with images that demand immediate attention, Mead's paintings slow us down. They reward sustained looking, revealing their peculiarities gradually. The longer one spends with the work, the more its internal logic begins to cohere. What initially feels improbable becomes inevitable.

Gravity & Wonder is ultimately an exhibition about balance.. between the known and the unknown, the grounded and the weightless, the rational and the poetic. Mead's work reminds us that the world, even in its most ordinary forms, contains the potential for transformation. Not through spectacle, but through a shift in how we see.

Sloane Bouchever 2026



Love Floats Softly Away 24 x 24"



Luscious Lulu 11 x 12"



This is not Ren'e 14 x 24"



Meloncholy Baby 32 x 24"



Two Fisted Drinker 32 x 24"