



THE CATALYSM PAINTINGS I
2021-22
by Patrick Webb



FALLING FIGURE 38X168 2022
FALLING FIGURE 18X60 2012

THE CATAclysm PAINTINGS

PART I

These paintings, begun after I completed my Covid cycle (<http://patrick-webb.com/covid/>), explore themes familiar to my works. Firefighters, first responders, enforcers and Punchinellos all make appearances in these narratives of catastrophe. My alter ego, Punchinello, who has inhabited my work since 1990, saves, jousts and gets rescued. The format of the paintings is inspired by 15th Century *predellas*. The structure of the paintings is inspired by both the music and the score of the *Well-Tempered Clavier* by Bach. The horizontal lines of the firefighters' tape act like the staves of the music, creating directional movement across the compositions. Then the hoses, figures, and fires move forward, back, up and down, creating rhythms and arabesques that invert and retrograde in some of the ways of the fugues and canons in the music. While time is manipulated by Bach, I use space, form and surface to explore the dynamics of the actions. The first paintings were 5 feet wide and between 14 and 22 inches tall. More recently I began expanding the scale to around 14 feet long (my longest studio wall) and between 36 and 60 inches tall. I base most of the large paintings on aspects of the smaller ones. There is something majestic about the compositions on this scale—I plan to continue the series.

—Patrick Webb, 2022

Patrick Webb is a Guggenheim Fellow, He has received grants from the Ingram Merrill Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Art Matters and Collex.

for more information contact Patrick Webb:
klopwebb@aol.com /718-392-375/patrick-webb.com

COVER: *CATAclysm* 38X166 2021; ALL PAINTINGS OIL ON CANVAS

<https://www.instagram.com/patrickwebb115>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Webb_\(artist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Webb_(artist))
<https://www.facebook.com/patrick.webb.94043>



NURSERY FIRE 39X169 2022
NURSERY FIRE 16X50 2021



CARRY III 36X166 20022 (UNFINISHED)
CARRY III 14X60 2021



TOWN FIRE 39X168 2022
TOWN FIRE 15X60 2021



FALLING FIGURES 60X166 2022 (UNFINISHED)
FALLING FIGURES 22X60 2021



CONFRONTATION 38X168 2022
CONFRONTATION 14X60 2021



CATACLYSM 36X188 2022
FALLING CHILD 14X60 2021



CARRY IV 20X60 2021
FIRE BATTLE 15X60 2021



DRAG FIRE 22X60 2021
BARRACKS FIRE 16X60 2021



HALLOWEEN FIRE 20X60 2021
SAILOR FIRE 16X60 2021