**Sei Solo**

**Art Watching Guide**

**Sei Smith**

**SMILERS**

**2026**



# Iridescent & Yellow



**Size:** 12” x 15.5”
**Material:** Iridescent Film and Acrylic on wood
**Year:** 2026
**Color(s):** Yellow and Iridescent Colors (Pink, Yellow, Orange and Light Blue)
**Series:** Iridescent Series
**Location:** Upper Roof

**SEI’S NOTES:** This piece took a while to finish cause I kept painting horrible colors.

**SMILERS NOTES:** My realtor told me when I bought this apartment that the windows occupying the shared walls between buildings were “illegal” because 431 has “air rights” —- yeah right… have fun with the DOB. Who would ever brick over someone else’s light source, anyways? Technically, we’ve hung Sei’s painting on their property though so, here, two “wrongs” make a right!

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# Iridescent & Pink



**Size:** 35” x 59”
**Material:** Iridescent Film and Acrylic on Panel
**Year:** 2026
**Color(s):** Pink and Iridescent Colors (Orange, Red, Pink, Yellow, Light Purple)
**Series:** Iridescent and Color Series
**Location:** Upper Roof

**SEI’S NOTES:** The paint application technique used on the side with solid color is borrowed from my grandfather, Tadaaki Kuwayama. I worked as his art assistant for 12 years. He used the technique to create pristine surfaces on canvas. I like that the same technique can look so different on rough wood. Or maybe it looks the same, I may be to close to see truly.

**SMILERS NOTES:** Now here is where we go high art because I stare in this direction constantly and that railing needed a painting that echoed the windows of the Village View housing complex across the street from afar. Two planes, or panes, shall we say… of color. Looking up, I’ve always thought of all the painters who have captured what it is to come and live in New York. I think panel no. 31 of the *Migration Series* by Jacob Lawrence and Charles Sheeler— it’s all one *Manhatta* !

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# Sunset Cluster_1

**Size:** 12” x 12”
**Material:** Iridescent Film and Acrylic on Panel
**Year:** 2026
**Color(s):** Yellow and Iridescent Colors (Orange, Red, Pink, Yellow, Light Purple)
**Series:** Iridescent Sunsets
**Location:** Lower Roof

**SEI’S NOTES:** This series came out of an idea of wanting to create the most simple landscape I could. I think because humans have been watching sunsets and sunrises for so long, there is something about a half circle divided by a line that is instantly recognizable. Also because the half circle is iridescent film, it changes color as you move around, kind of like the sun when it’s right on the horizon.

**SMILERS NOTES:** Hotel California vibes. These paintings can never leave. I once did witness a huddle of pigeons get completely trapped in this same apparatus to which Sei’s paintings are affixed when the slumlord’s plexiglass bandaid windowpane failed. Plus the cactus.

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# Sunset Cluster_2

**Size:** 12” x 12”
**Material:** Iridescent Film and Acrylic on Panel
**Year:** 2026
**Color(s):** Orange and Iridescent Colors (Orange, Red, Pink, Yellow, Light Purple)
**Series:** Iridescent Sunsets
**Location:** Lower Roof

**SEI’S NOTES:** This series came out of an idea of wanting to create the most simple landscape I could. I think because humans have been watching sunsets and sunrises for so long, there is something about a half circle divided by a line that is instantly recognizable. Also because the half circle is iridescent film, it changes color as you move around, kind of like the sun when it’s right on the horizon.

**SMILERS NOTES:** Hotel California vibes. These paintings can never leave. I once did witness a huddle of pigeons get completely trapped in this same apparatus to which Sei’s paintings are affixed when the slumlord’s plexiglass bandaid windowpane failed. Plus the cactus.

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# Sunset Cluster_3

**Size:** 12” x 12”
**Material:** Iridescent Film and Acrylic on Panel
**Year:** 2026
**Color(s):** Pink, Orange and Iridescent Colors
(Orange, Red, Pink, Yellow, Light Purple)
**Series:** Iridescent Sunsets
**Location:** Lower Roof

**SEI’S NOTES:** This series came out of an idea of wanting to create the most simple landscape I could. I think because humans have been watching sunsets and sunrises for so long, there is something about a half circle divided by a line that is instantly recognizable. Also because the half circle is iridescent film, it changes color as you move around, kind of like the sun when it’s right on the horizon.

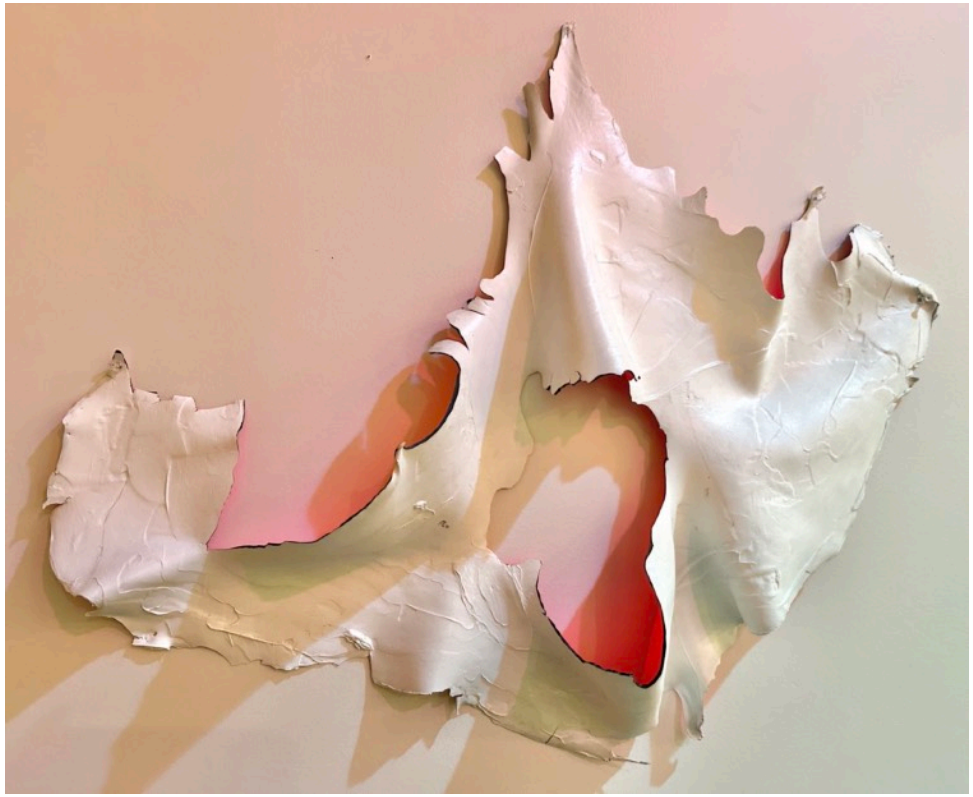
**SMILERS NOTES:** Hotel California vibes. These paintings can never leave. I once did witness a huddle of pigeons get completely trapped in this same apparatus to which Sei’s paintings are affixed when the slumlord’s plexiglass bandaid windowpane failed. Plus the cactus.

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# Pink Paint Skin

**Size:** Variable
**Material:** Dried Acrylic
**Year:** 2019
**Color(s):** White, Black and Pink
**Series:** Reflection Series
**Location:** Lower Roof

**SEI'S NOTES:** Natural folds create great shadows. They drape different every hang.

**SMILERS NOTES:** Maybe a paint skin is an artist shedding excess materials and not letting them go to waste? Sei told me how he made this flexible shapeshifter. It has layers, like most paintings, and it's funny to think of how to describe their positioning in terms of fore and ground… perhaps let's use the "core" in this instance—which is black paint that you can only see by looking closely at the edges. Sei has masked it with white on the front and day-glo [hello Lynda Benglis!] pink on the "verso".

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# Iridescent Red & Blue_Stripes

**Size:** 37” x 48.5”
**Material:** Iridescent Film, Acrylic and Dried Acrylic Skins on Plywood
**Year:** 2019
**Color(s):** Iridescent Blue and Red (Green, Pink, Red, Purple, Gold)
**Series:** Iridescent Series
**Location:** Lower Roof

**SMILERS NOTES:** To me this looks like the test screen for a projector. Perhaps I’m biased since Sei’s marvelous painting is suspended just in front of the wall where projections are thrown at smilers. [I googled this: A standard SMPTE color bar test screen contains 7 main vertical bars in the top two-thirds section (white, yellow, cyan, green, magenta, red, blue), plus additional sections like castellations and bottom reference patches. A basic classic color bar test pattern features 8 vertical bars (white, yellow, cyan, green, magenta, red, blue, and black).] I count 8 there in Sei’s painting and the horizontal intersections appear at certain hours of the sun. Daytime projections!?

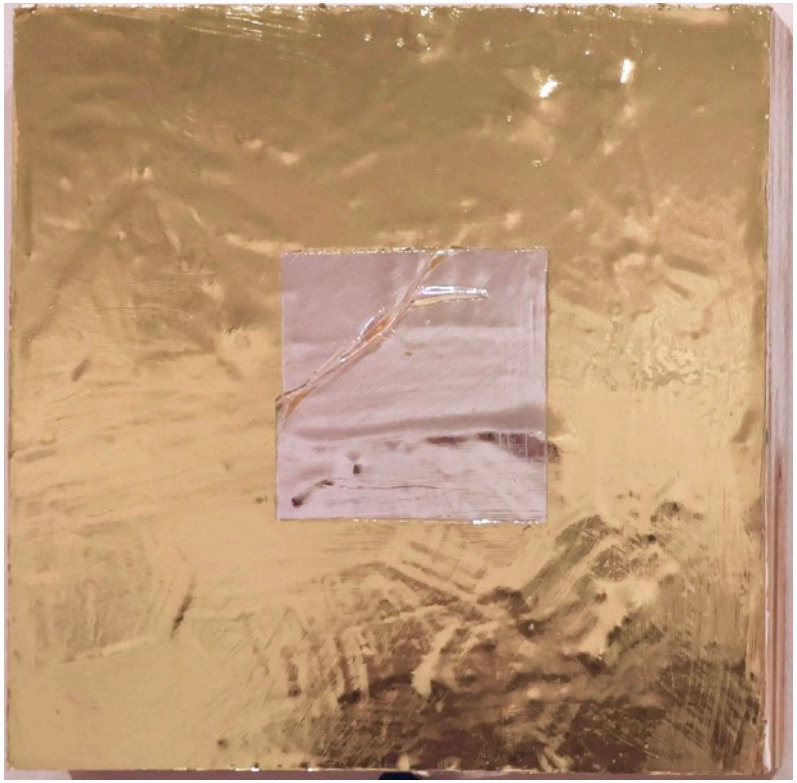
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# Little Gold Buddy



**Size:** 6” x 6”
**Material:** Iridescent Film and Acrylic on Panel
**Year:** 2020
**Color(s):** Gold and Silver
**Series:** Iridescent Series
**Location:** Lower Roof on a brick wall

**SMILERS NOTES:** This one made me think of a video game token so we thought to hide it… a tiny iridescent *Homage to the Square*, no? It could be any such homage since the metallic color shifts throughout the day (or depending on where you stand) with innumerably subtle contrasting combinations! Honorable mention to a loose Byzantine mosaic tile because I can’t help myself when I see gold.

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# Pink/Blue_Little Canvas

**Size:** 14” x 7”
**Material:** Acrylic on Canvas
**Year:** 2021
**Color(s):** White, Pink and Blue
**Series:** Reflection Series
**Location:** Fire Escape

**SEI’S NOTES:** I still think of these constructions as paintings, but a lot of people have told me they are sculpture. Maybe an art form is just the perspective you view it from…who said that?

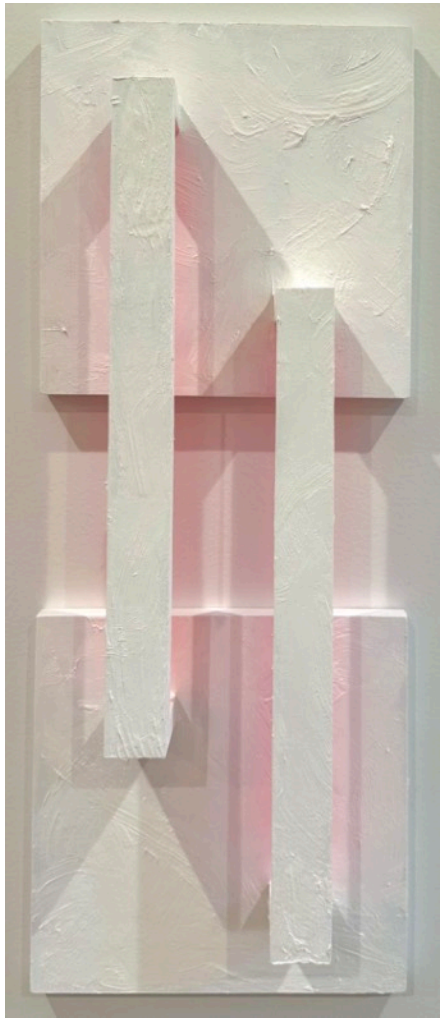
**SMILERS NOTES:** These guys immediately screamed fire escape. They look ADA compliant, handlebars even—purposeful, structural, and sturdy. Also, we thought the pink glow played well with the green of the fire escape… ask me about who chose the chartreuse.

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# Pink_ Two Lines

**Size:** 26” x 12”
**Material:** Acrylic on Wood
**Year:** 2025
**Color(s):** White and Pink
**Series:** Reflection Series
**Location:** Fire Escape

**SEI’S NOTES:** I still think of these constructions as paintings, but a lot of people have told me they are sculpture. Maybe an art form is just the perspective you view it from…who said that?

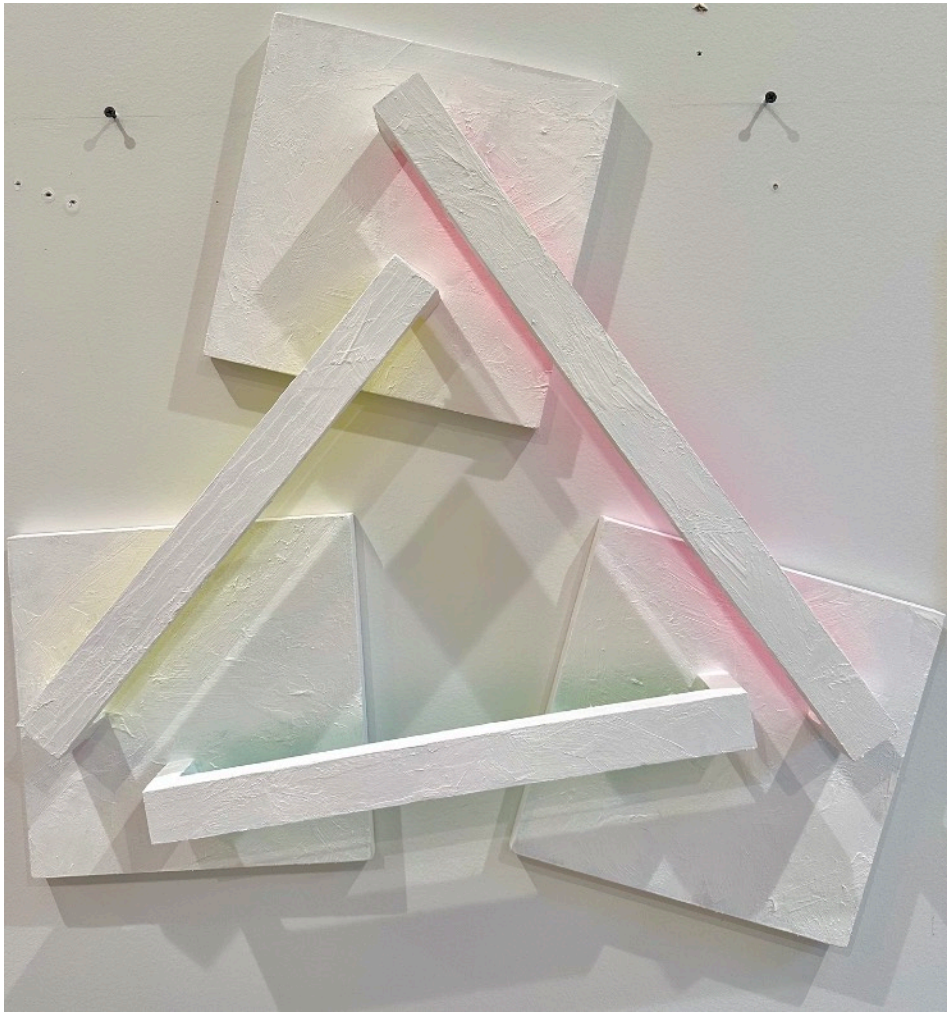
**SMILERS NOTES:** These guys immediately screamed fire escape. They look ADA compliant, handlebars even—purposeful, structural, and sturdy. Also, we thought the pink glow played well with the green of the fire escape… ask me about who chose the chartreuse.

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# Green Pink & Yellow_Lines

**Size:** 24” x 27”
**Material:** Acrylic on Wood
**Year:** 2025
**Color(s):** White, Pink, Green and Yellow
**Series:** Reflection Series
**Location:** Fire Escape

**SEI’S NOTES:** I still think of these constructions as paintings, but a lot of people have told me they are sculpture. Maybe an art form is just the perspective you view it from…who said that?

**SMILERS NOTES:** These guys immediately screamed fire escape. They look ADA compliant, handlebars even—purposeful, structural, and sturdy. Also, we thought the pink glow played well with the green of the fire escape… ask me about who chose the chartreuse.

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# Little Diagonal

**Size:** 8” x 10”
**Material:** Iridescent Film and Acrylic on Panel
**Year:** 2026
**Color(s):** Green/Blue and Iridescent Colors (Blue, Gold, Copper, Purple and Red)
**Series:** Cute Paintings
**Location:** Tree

**SEI’S NOTES:** This series came from the idea, “what if Abstract Expressionism was cute.” Maybe it was always cute.

**SMILERS NOTES:** We bushwacked to get a good viewpoint for this lil guy. Another artist who took residence at Smilers, Gao Hang, identified the host tree as a mulberry and it was fruiting this past summer when he was here. We ate the berries! I could be forcing it, but Sei’s painting in this tree actually has discernible brushstrokes that read like berry lobes… “life imitates art far more than art imitates life” and all that Wilde stuff.

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# Iridescent Blue & Red



**Size:** 14” x 21”
**Material:** Iridescent Film and Acrylic on wood
**Year:** 2024
**Color(s):** Iridescent Blue and Red (Pink, Yellow, Orange, Purple, Green and Light Blue)
**Series:** Iridescent Series
**Location:** Neighbor’s Fire Escape across the courtyard

**SEI’S NOTES:** This piece is inspired by wheat paste advertisements. It’s made with the iridescent scraps from other work. A composition made by the need to cover space rather then create shapes. Still, shapes are created. Shape are always created.

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