

## **Michael Morrill: Artist's Statement**

When I was an art student, I saw a Clifford Still painting and a Carl Andre sculpture for the first time. I didn't know then that these seminal works represented divergent artistic ideologies. The experience excited and challenged me on a visceral, fundamental level. They still do. Since then, I have been roaming the broad terrain between the poles of gestural and geometric abstraction for something of my own.

In my work today, gesture and geometry coalesce in stratified compositions of light and dark. I'm interested in the presence and absence of color, and the reflection and absorption of light. I paint on wood panels stretched with canvas, which makes stable surfaces for brush and palette knife work. Titles signal references to my interest in astronomy and the mysteries of antiquity.