



## PRESS RELEASE

the ART BASE | 174 Midland Ave | BASALT, CO | 81621

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CONTACT: Katherine Grey Walker, 970.927.4123 [katherine@theartbase.org](mailto:katherine@theartbase.org)

**The Art Base presents: *Complete Fragments* by James Surls**

July 16 – September 27, 2021

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 11am-5pm, Friday-Saturday, 11am-7pm

Opening Reception: Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm

The Art Base is pleased to present an exhibition of 30 new drawings by James Surls, entitled *Complete Fragments*. Surls refers to this just-completed body of work as “sketches of psychological being”. This exhibition will be on view through Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

These 30 pencil drawings are a select group from a series of 56 vignettes that Surls completed during a 20-day water fast. Surls attended a health retreat in Santa Rosa, California this past spring, and during this rigorous health reset, rather than feeling depleted, he described feeling invigorated and found himself inspired. Several drawings are relevant to his surroundings in Santa Rosa, like *Dark Thistle*. Others show a familiar ‘Surls visual vernacular’ including head forms, molecules, flowers, eyes, and geometric and organic shapes. All the works are visually compelling and are also imbued with great significance and meaning including *Deep Dive* and *Deep Tangle*.

Art Base curator, Lissa Ballinger comments, “James and Charmaine have been ardent and loyal supporters of the Art Base for many years. We were honored when James approached us to exhibit this new extraordinary body of work.”

James Surls is an internationally recognized artist and one of the most preeminent living artists in the United States. His sculptures, drawings and prints, which reflect his unique sensibility to natural forms, are in major art museums and public and private collections throughout the world, including: the the Centro Cultural Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City; the country of Singapore; Museum of Modern Art, NY; Smithsonian American Art Museum, DC; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, NY. Surls currently resides and has his studio in Carbondale, CO. He has lived in Carbondale, CO since 1997.

**The Art Base is a nonprofit community arts center located in Basalt, Colorado. Through education, exhibitions, and events they foster creative expression in the visual arts for all ages and abilities. Education programs are designed to be accessible to everyone and**

**encourage creative expression and lifelong learning through arts workshops and outreach programs in partnership with local nonprofits and Basalt schools. Exhibitions focus on opportunities for solo, group, and guest-curated exhibitions for Colorado-based artists, with an emphasis on those living in the Roaring Fork Valley.**

**[www.theartbase.org](http://www.theartbase.org)**