

STATEMENT

Uluru, the Aboriginal name of the iconic Australian rock formation also known as Ayers Rock, is a sacred and hallowed sandstone formation intimately connected to the mythology of the Aboriginal peoples. Its riveting presence is dramatized by its singular and majestic appearance rising from a flat plain in central Australia. It is a stunning sandstone mountain, usually red, sometimes blue, sometimes violet in color.

In creating my painting, I am attempting to recall the power of this monolith, standing so impressively alone in the vastness of space. I used an almost immiscible mixture of oil paint and water to create a semi-controlled application of form on a flat horizontal canvas surface. By thinning or thickening the paint as it puddle and moved and, waiting for just the appropriate density as it dried, I was able to achieve some of the surface features characteristic of Uluru. I used ladles, spoons, and brushes to capture the image, but because there is an accidental nature to this process, there is little room for traditional reworking. The painting, *Uluru*, was shown as part of a solo exhibition at the Marion Meyer Gallery entitled, *Robert Mah – The Spontaneous Process*.

BIO

Mah first began painting during the artistically tumultuous 1960's when he was a young academic teaching and doing research at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC and taking art classes at night. Mah was drawn to the excitement of abstract expressionism then, and continued to pursue its myriad possibilities from that time to now. The gestural intuitive use of paint and other materials continues to provide endless pleasures in discovering new directions for his work.

<http://www.marionmeyergallery.com/gallery/mah/Mah/mahsite/biography.html>



Robert Mah
Uluru (from Spontaneous Process series), 2007
Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 72 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Marion Meyer Contemporary Art



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