Maxwell Williams, "Peak Performance," Cultured Mag, Summer 2017

PEAK PERFORMANCE

Los Angeles-based artist Andy Woll's in-demand mountain range paintings are driving his studio in one direction: up.

BY MAXWELL WILLIAMS **PORTRAIT BY NIK MASSEY**

see the San Gabriel Mountains as he drove down looks inviting as a skier's paradise; another black perhaps the way people looked at Paul Cézanne's Venice Boulevard toward Downtown Los Angeles; and commanding like Mordor in The Lord of the Mont Sainte-Victoire series. the summits and crests hazy and dramatic in the Rings. Each mountains' slopes are likewise treated "Art History people are always like, 'Ah! You've distance beyond the skyline. One of those peaks, with different swirls and lines of colors that play remixed Cézanne," says Woll. "I probably have Mount Wilson, became the main subject of Woll's against the background. They are, says Woll, more unintentional similarity; we just both had an practice—a sort of tangle between abstraction and actually inspired in some part by the colors used obsession with a mountain and wanted to paint it... Angeleno landscape that recalls painters like Mary on the covers of old sci-fi novels, which he collects To me, it's a very L.A. project about this city that I

painting," says Woll, who began focusing on Mount things," Woll explains. "There's an octopus with with the similar repetitive nature and perspective Wilson after first trying to paint the city lights from weird squiggling tentacles. I make them all in shifts as his mountain paintings. He is working its vantage point, and then deciding to try it from the groups, and this group is a science fiction group, toward a two-person show in L.A. with fellow other direction. "I like abstraction; I like which has mostly to do with colors, and also to do Angeleno painter Dashiell Manley in the fall, where representation. I don't really feel the strongest with the oozy drippy-ness. There was a Western he will probably show a mix of mountains, chairs division between those two things. If the painting group, and that had more straight lines, and that and abstract paintings. He likes broad subjects that was just the bottom two-thirds, it would be—I don't was more carved wood looking—to me." people can bring their own experiences to. know. The representation part gives it a purpose."

The Western paintings were the works he

Heights studio as we speak are enormously repetitive quality seems fanatic, a gallery full of one everywhere."

rowing up in Venice, Andy Woll could different. One is painted on a teal background and subject matter—a single mountain—which is for their aesthetic quality.

The large paintings Woll has hung in his Boyle presented at Night Gallery last year. Together, the "Everybody's used a chair. Mountains are

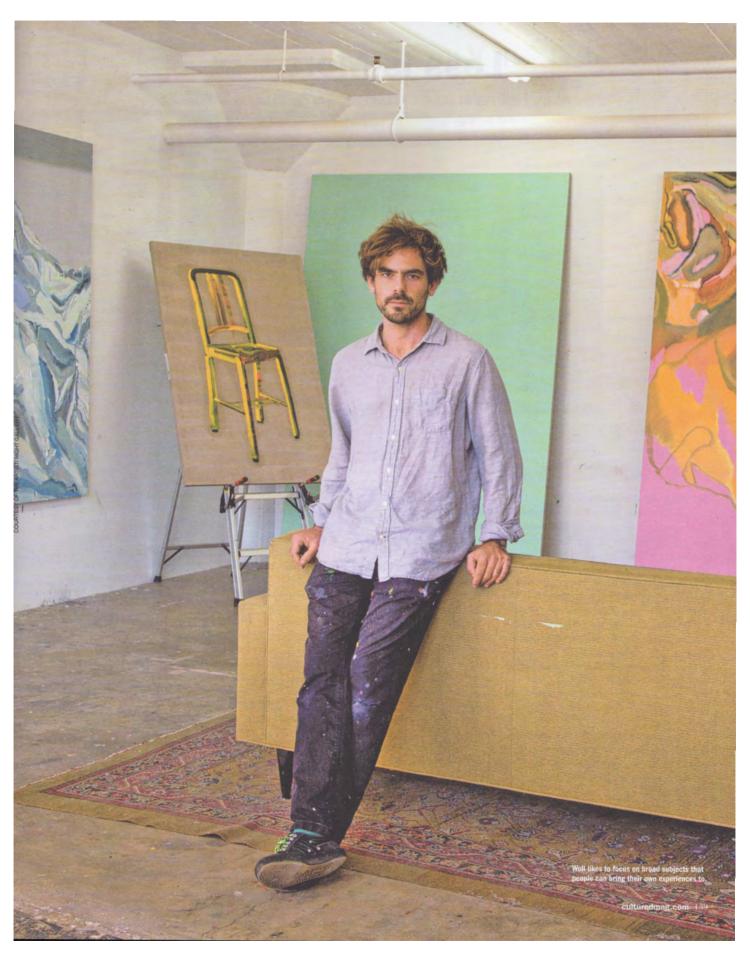
love very much."

"It's a symbol around which I hang the "I was thinking lasers, maybe oozy alien Woll's latest obsession is painting office chairs

Or as he concludes so succinctly,

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