

**CABIN FEVER**  
**joeiurato**



**Artist's Statement**

The work for this show was created during the period of time we began emerging from a full-fledged pandemic and into a new way of life. So, let's say March through June of 2021, a span of about four months. This is the vaccine era, the first hugs and handshakes in over a year, skyrocketing airfare, and N95 masks restocked at the hardware store. We are fumbling and bumbling our way back to normal routines - but what we've gone through, how we've adapted, the ways we changed - it's hard not to recognize that "normal" will have its alterations. And perhaps, indefinitely.

For months on end during the heart of the pandemic, inexplicably, I couldn't create a damn thing. No matter how badly I needed art to happen, if only for the sake of therapy and sanity, I remained totally and completely blank. Between the fear, uncertainty and unsettling times, I guess it was just too much to process creatively, and so I retreated. And waited. And waited. And then gave up.

Later on, I realized all that time away from the studio wasn't wasted. It had been a time of observation for me. And those observations are what eventually formed the narratives for "Cabin Fever". This body of work is my crossroads, and a quick rundown each path to explore what lies ahead. It's an unfiltered, visceral reaction to a life event that I'll never be able to explain fully. But I know it's taking me towards something new. It's the domination of digital communication, the longing to travel, the way we view ourselves, and a somewhat new outlook on life. I guess this is what happens when you can't leave your home for a year. Who knows.

-Joe Iurato