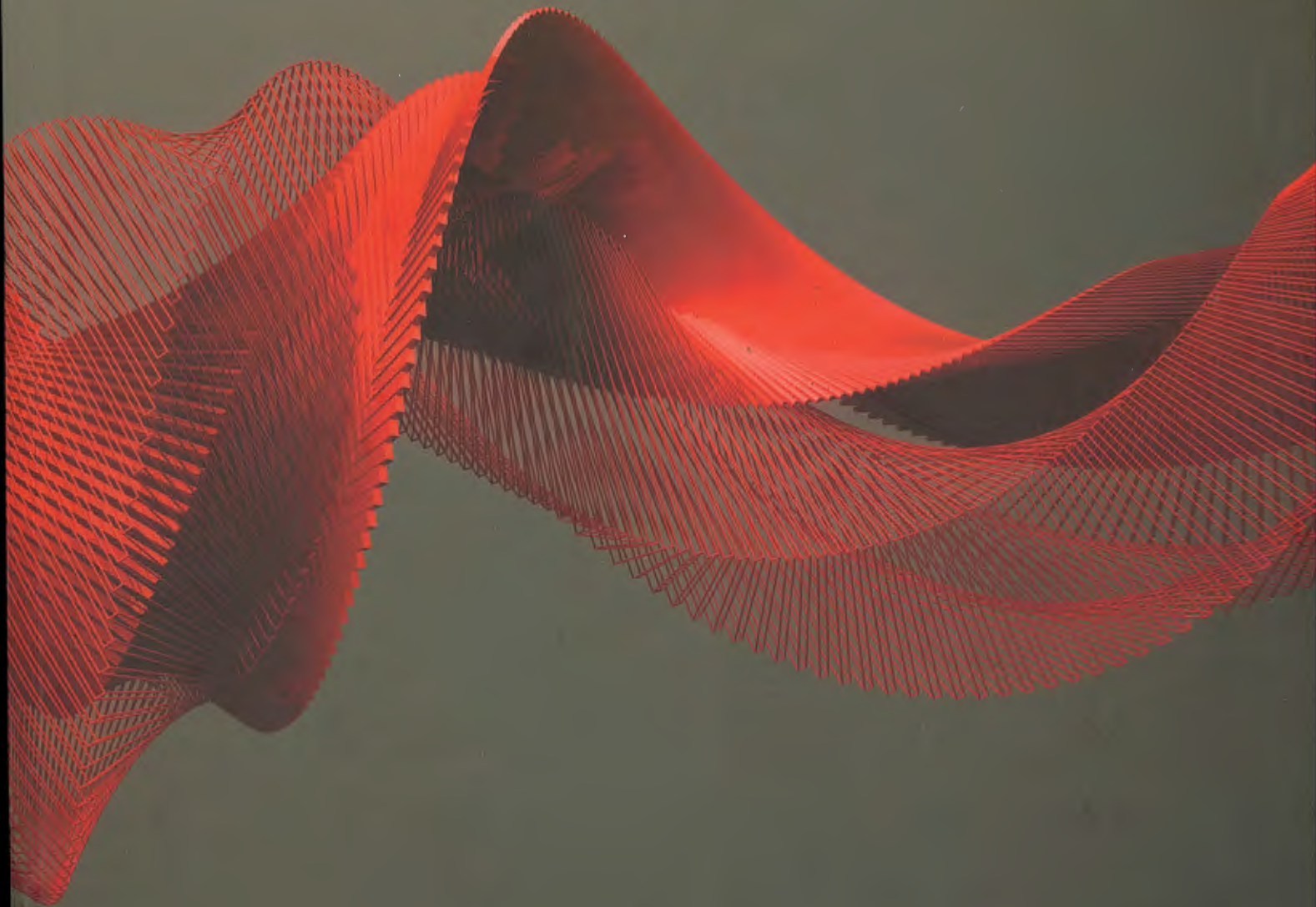


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The Mind Recedes the Blood is Wise the Soundless Mouth is Open
 Painting, Mixed technique, Canvas, 279x198cm, 2010

Joshua Hagler

Extracting from a patchwork of Western religious myths, the paintings and installations work as a reconstruction of these traditions into a narrative exegesis tailor-made for the Religious America. In growing up in a complex array of Christian communities and later ostracized, I find myself obsessed with hidden agendas, messianic iconography, and the burden of unquestioned belief. Suggestive narratives are repeated in numerous paintings and installations, assuming various guises, but reflective of the same psychological dynamic vibrating like a seizure in the fold between reason and madness.

A Fossilizing Towards, The Name Engorged by Capillarity. To make this sculpture, I used about 1500 plastic action figures, which I burned and painted black. The entire form is wrapped in a fire hose. After my apartment and studio were lost to arson three years ago, I became obsessed with the arsonist, even tracking him down to ask for his participation in a project. I wanted to use fire to make art, and to participate in his mania. The sculpture should resemble anything from a dinosaur, Leviathan, or varied cave formations. My interest in caves arises from its possibility as the birthplace of human consciousness. Like the hunt over which the Shaman hopes to gain favor through representation, I wanted to represent a hunt of a certain kind. The creatures, heroes, and villains which are mass produced to make toys are all inspired directly or indirectly by our long history of myth and religion. As a boy, I acted out all manner of hunt and combat with these toys, and this narrative of conflict has never left me. I'm more interested now in a psychological conflict, which has probably been with us since we became aware of our own suffering and mortality.



Joshua Hagler

Installation & Sculpture
 Finalist

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 Born in Mountain Home 1979
 Lives and works in Berkeley



Fossilizing Towards, The Name Engorged by Capillarity
Installation & Sculpture Finalist, Sculpture, 91.5x168x213cm, 2010