

James Barron Art

Mike Ousley: Tales from the Deep Dark Hills



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Mike Ousley: Tales from the Deep Dark Hills

Mike Ousley's whimsical, otherworldly compositions are inspired by his childhood in the Appalachian Mountains of Southeastern Kentucky. His works incorporate elements of myth, fairy tale, local lore, and Appalachian life and traditions. Although Ousley received an MFA at University of Cincinnati, he embraces a naive folk-art style. Ousley says, "I view my paintings as ballads for the rough living and hardscrabble existence found in the Central Appalachian Coal region... [it is] built around a pathos and understanding of the downtrodden and discarded; a poetry for the underdog."

Ousley's work is in the permanent collections of Ashland Community College, Highlands Regional Medical Center, Moreland State University, and Ohio State University. He has been featured in ArtMaze Magazine and on Platform, and was a resident at the Huntington Museum of Art, Arc of Appalachia, and North Mountain.



MIKE OUSLEY

Backwoods Cult, 2022
acrylic on canvas
30 x 30 inches (76.2 x 76.2 cm)



“Ousley’s jewel-like paintings tell narratives that are ostensibly playful, even whimsical, like the parables of Heironymous Bosch.”

Michael Rooks,
Curator of Contemporary Art, High Museum



MIKE OUSLEY

It Came from Outer Space, 2022
acrylic on panel
24 x 24 inches (61 x 61 cm)





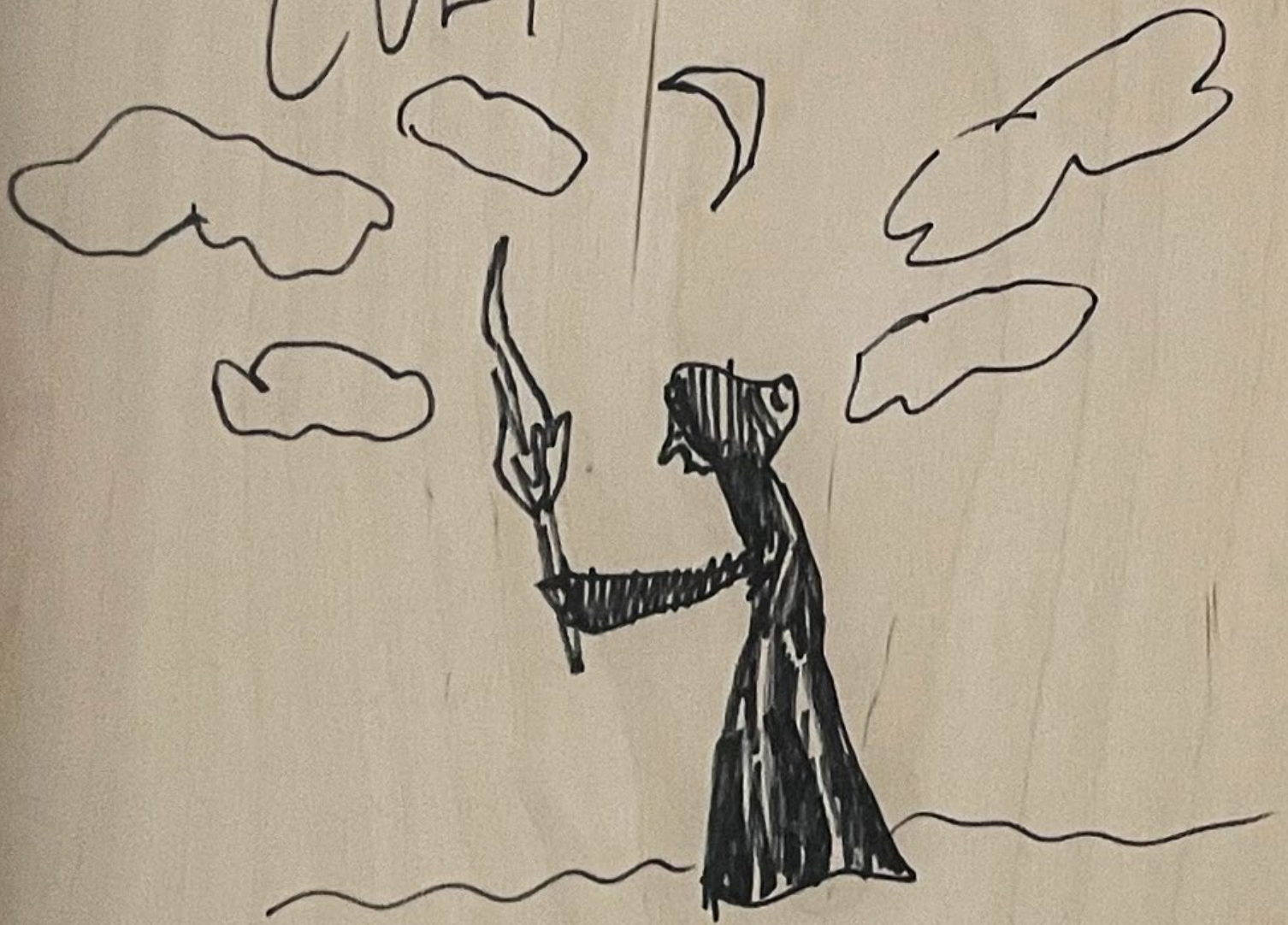


MIKE OUSLEY

Cult Meeting, 2023
oil on panel
24 x 30 inches (61 x 76.2 cm)



" CULT MEETING "



MIKE OUSLEY

Coven, 2022
acrylic on panel
24 x 36 inches (61 x 91.4 cm)



"COVEN"



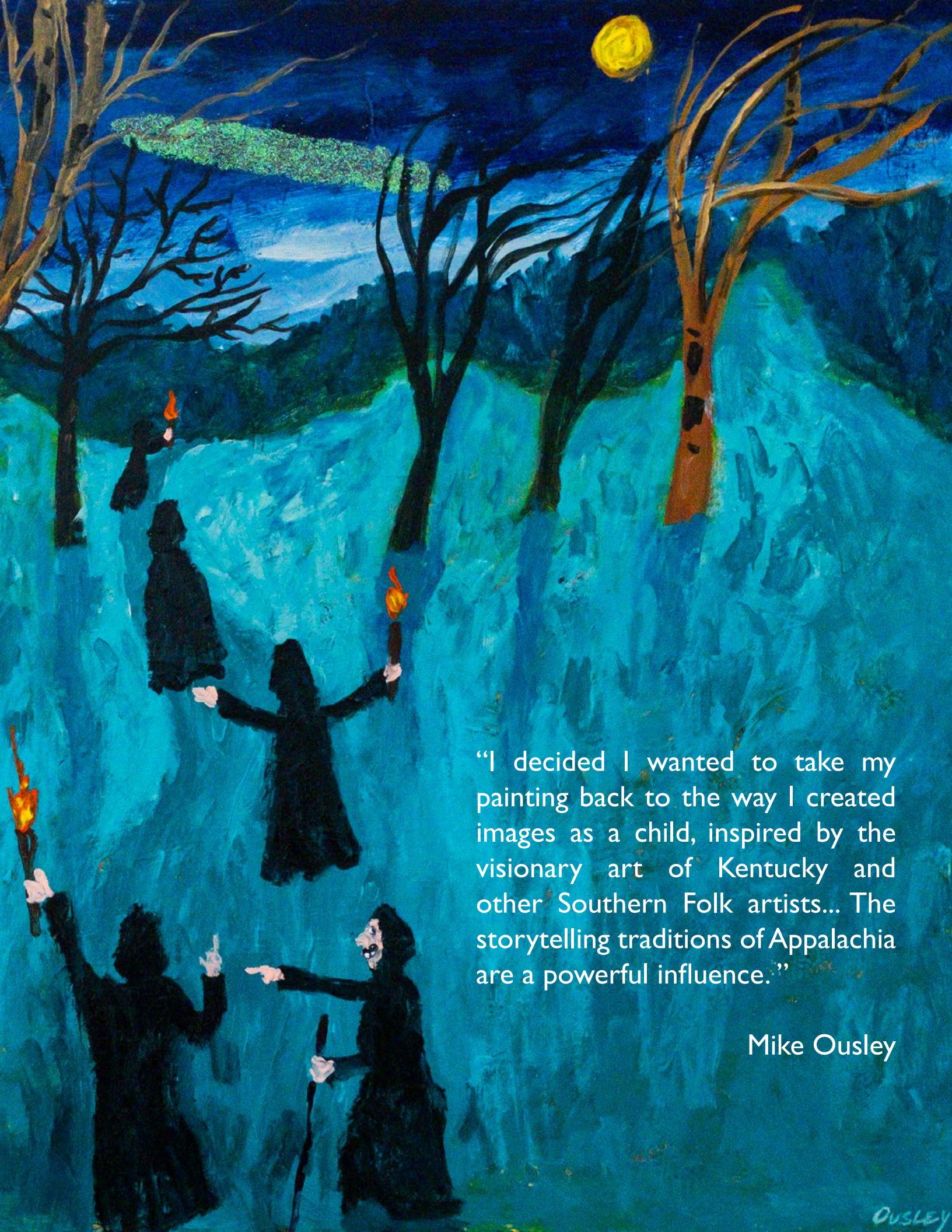
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Michael Ovelan

MIKE OUSLEY

Order of the Lunar Temple, 2021
acrylic on panel
20 x 24 inches (50.8 x 61 cm)





“I decided I wanted to take my painting back to the way I created images as a child, inspired by the visionary art of Kentucky and other Southern Folk artists... The storytelling traditions of Appalachia are a powerful influence.”

Mike Ousley

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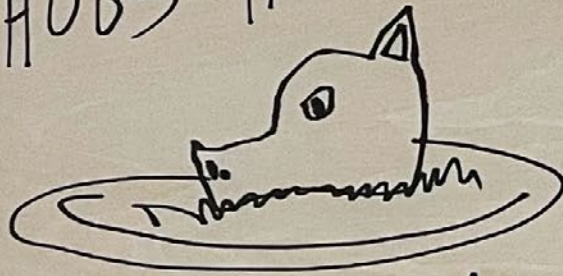


MIKE OUSLEY

Hog's Head Souse, 2022
acrylic on panel
24 x 36 inches (61 x 91.4 cm)



"HOG'S HEAD SOUSE"



Michael Oakey '22



MIKE OUSLEY

New Age Trailer Park Pals, 2022
acrylic on panel
11 x 14 inches (27.9 x 35.6 cm)



MIKE OUSLEY

Witch, 2022
acrylic on panel
12 x 18 inches (30.5 x 45.7 cm)





MIKE OUSLEY

Yoder's Barn, 2022
acrylic on panel
18 x 24 inches (45.7 x 61 cm)



MIKE OUSLEY

Snake Selfies, 2023
oil on panel
18 x 24 inches (45.7 x 61 cm)



' SNAKE SELFIES '



Michael Ashley

