



JOANNE MATTERA

STATEMENT

*Tutto*

The new work in 2022, *Tutto* continues the formal themes I have been working with for the past several years: a divided field, a strong emphasis on the horizontal, and saturated color. In the early days of the pandemic, I worked mainly on paper, producing *Mezza*, *Vico*, and *Riz*, the series you'll see as you scroll down. *Tutto* flowed from them.

Working on paper is different from working on canvas or panel; painting large is different from painting small; and tube paint—oil or acrylic—is different from velvety gouache, luscious oil stick, or the luminous wax of encaustic. I have employed all of these methods and materials for many years, but always separately. With *Tutto*—Italian for everything—I have chosen to explore my ideas using all of them.

I don't mean to say that I'm working with a material mishmash. Within the series I am using specific materials for each painting. However, the variables—different arm motions required for working large or small, different paint viscosities and drying times, the refraction of color through different mediums—are all elements that affect the outcome. Of course, I have a vision for *Tutto*, but with this all-in-one strategy, there's also room for surprise.

If you are familiar with my oeuvre, or if you are new to it as you scroll through this website, you'll see that the later works in the *Silk Road* series feature the same bisected field with horizontal bands over what appears initially to be a monochromatic field. Transitions are interesting as one idea morphs into another. *Tutto* will carry on the tradition of the bisected field while *Silk Road* will double back and resume its identity as a series of color fields. As for the *Silk Road* paintings that look like *Tutto*, the creative path is not like an interstate highway with Point B at the end of a relatively straight shot from Point A but more like the fabled Silk Road of history, with its multiple routes, some parallel, some going off in totally different directions.