Tristan Unrau (b. 1989) holds an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design. The artist highlights his technical skills with oil paint with thick brush strokes and attention to detail. Tristan’s subjects are diverse, ranging from art historical references to the artist’s personal interests. Unrau incorporates duality in his practice, whether it’s his decision between painting loose or tight, or the emotions he wishes to portray, which vary between fear and hope. His work embodies a form of meditation, specifically on what it means to produce painting. The artist’s style portrays his skills in his technical training, and leaves enough ambiguity for the viewer to develop their own interpretation.

Unrau was a 2013 resident at the Banff Centre, and in 2015 & 2017 was a finalist for the Royal Bank of Canada Painting Competition. He has held recent solo shows at Unit 17, 56 Henry, and Towards Gallery. He lives and works in Los Angeles.