



June 4 - 27, 2026

**Scott Cumberland:**  
***CHROMA | POP***

Essay by Ania Sleczkowska



*Funk Ninja*, 2026. Acrylic on Canvas, 30" x 30"



**Scott Cumberland**

*CHROMA / POP*

## Chromophilia: Scott Cumberland's

### *CHROMA / POP*

By Ania Slezkowska

Scott Cumberland's exhibition *Chroma / Pop* at the Peter Robertson Gallery arrives as a powerful wave of energy, celebrating an intense love of vibrant colour through an intuitive painting process. Echoing themes from his foundational MFA graduate work at the University of Alberta, this collection showcases a profound evolution in his practice.

The heart of the showcase lies in how specific auditory landscapes are translated into raw, visual form. *Chroma / Pop* draws inspiration from the rhythmic layers of popular music, focusing on how iconic 1960s tracks and modern songs are reimagined by contemporary musicians across Funk, Punk, and Pop genres.

Cumberland visually samples and translates these musical frameworks. The exhilarating intersection of sight, motion, and heavy pigment evokes the specific frequencies of tracks like Gloria Jones's driving soul, Depeche Mode's electronic synth layers, and Bill Withers's deep, rhythmic grooves.



*Just The Two Of Us*, 2025. Acrylic on Canvas, 30" x 30"

The core of Cumberland's methodology rests on a deliberate juxtaposition of flat stillness and structured movement. Each piece features a completely pure, single-colour background. These flat planes of intense, saturated hue—ranging from cadmium yellow to piercing magenta—instantly command the viewer's attention. By stripping away all environmental context, these unyielding fields of colour establish a powerful visual frequency that dominates the room, creating an atmospheric, immersive foundation before the composition unfolds.

Set against these solid colour backgrounds, the canvas erupts with kinetic motion. Cumberland employs a signature technique, layering thick, continuous bands of contrasting, high-chroma pigment that twist and loop across the surface. These impasto ribbons do not merely sit on the canvas; they dance. Driven by internal gesture, the heavy strokes map the artist's bodily response to a vivid, electrifying palette. One can trace the sheer velocity of the hand in the sweeping arcs and sudden, sharp direction changes of the paint, mirroring the sharp transitions and bold covers of the musical tracks that inspired them.



*We Are Not Two*, 2026. Acrylic on Canvas, 18" x 18"



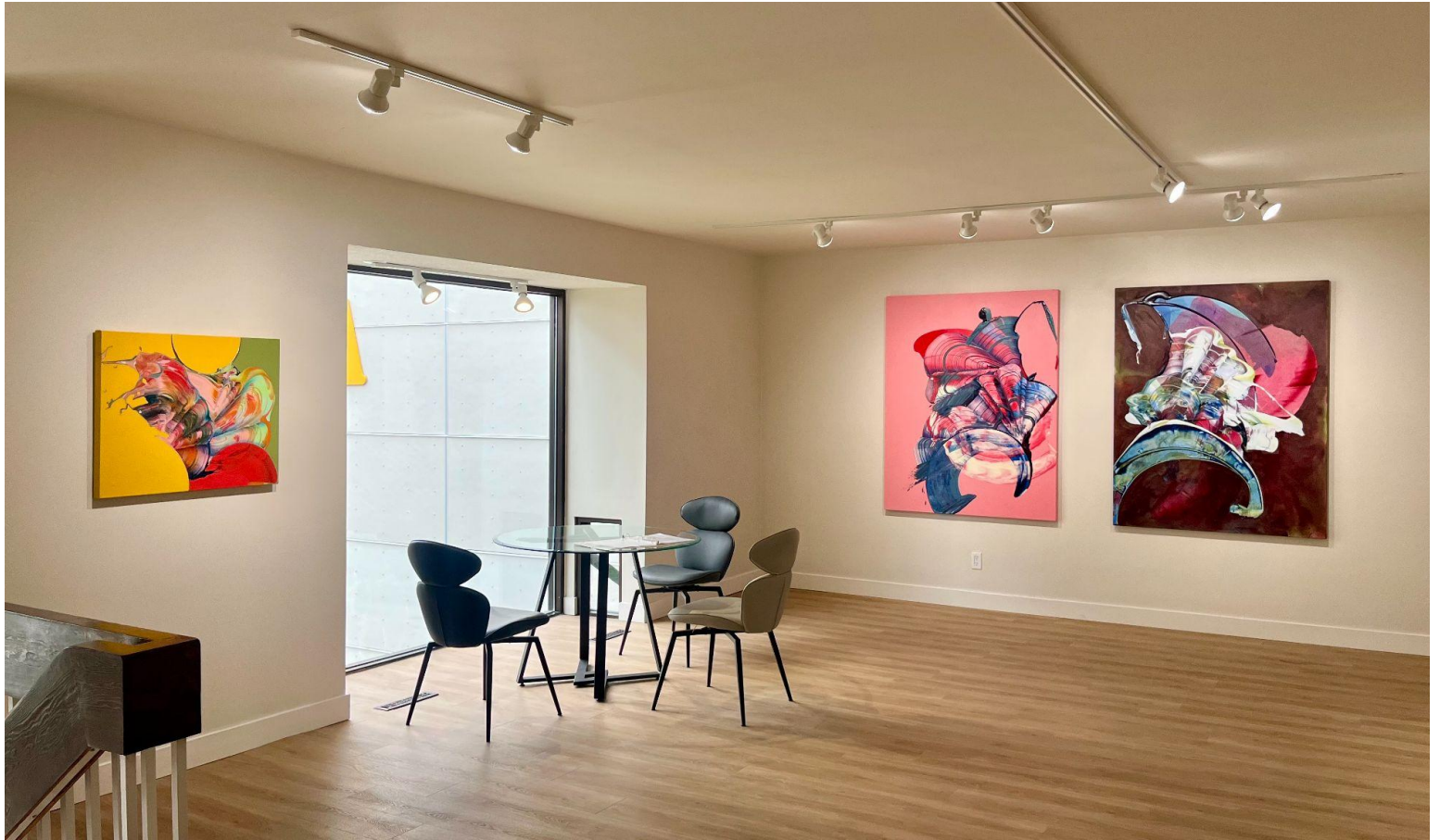
*We Are One*, 2026. Acrylic on Canvas, 18" x 18"

This gestural choreography creates a tangible sense of depth and time. The overlapping ribbons transform static material into a visual crescendo. By anchoring explosive, multi-hued movement within a field of singular, pure colour, Cumberland captures a euphoric essence.

Ultimately, *Chroma | Pop* stands as a triumphant celebration of paint, intense colour relationships, and the visceral power of the medium.



*Oh! You Pretty Things*, 2026. Acrylic on Canvas, 52" x 46"







*Mr. Blue*, 2026. Acrylic on Canvas, 48" x 48"

Publication in conjunction with the Scott Cumberland: CHROMA | POP  
exhibition by Peter Robertson Gallery from June 4 - 27, 2026.  
Essay written by Ania Sleczkowska.

Peter Robertson Gallery  
10332 124 Street NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1R2  
[www.probertsongallery.com](http://www.probertsongallery.com)

Front cover:  
Scott Cumberland  
*We Are Not Two*, 2026.  
Acrylic on Canvas,  
18" x 18"

Scott Cumberland (MFA University of Alberta, BFA University of Saskatchewan) is a Painting Technician/Demonstrator with the University of Alberta. He has previously taught Painting, Drawing and Art Fundamentals at the University of Alberta in both the Department of Art and Design and Augustana Fine Arts Department. Scott maintains an active painting practice that explores, through the language of abstraction, themes of perception, time, and memory.

**peter  
robertson  
gallery**



Scott Cumberland