



Susan G. Scott- The Waters of March

March 22 - April 27, 2014

JULIE M. GALLERY

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Open Tues to Sat 11-6, Sun 12-5 or by appointment

In the spirit of spring, The Julie M. Gallery is pleased to present *The Waters of March*, Susan G. Scott's first solo exhibition with the gallery. *The Waters of March* is an extended meditation on the natural world that wonderfully captures the cool illumination of early spring. Scott's abstract landscapes deftly utilize rhythm, a vibrant palate, and loose composition, guiding the viewer through a lyrical world of light and colour.



Waters no. 34, 2014, oil on terraskin, 40 x 86 in.

Throughout Scott's career she has maintained a practice of working from nature for a period of time each year, for as she explains "the work I create outdoors is an escape from my urban existence as well as a way to refresh specific mark making that results from painting from direct observation." All of the works that appear in *The Waters of March* portray aspects of a tiny stream outside Scott's country studio. Over the course of seven years, Scott revisited this scene, allowing it to take on monumental proportions.



Fallen, Oasis series, 2011, oil on canvas, 68 x 120 in.

In *Fallen*, we see the early stages of Scott's exploration of abstract landscapes, which reflect a pervasive nostalgia for a disappearing and mysterious natural world. Scott's landscapes bring us back to the nature of our childhood, full of innocence and wonder alongside shadows and lurking danger. The felled branches that appear in many of the landscapes epitomize this, both a symbol of destruction, and a way forward, a path across a river. The figures in the painting provide a link between Scott's earlier work which is defined by explorations of the human figure and the increasingly abstract terraskin landscapes. Scott's voice as an artist is defined both by the tenets of abstraction, and an enduring love for the craft and compositional acumen of the old masters, which is perfectly conveyed in the gestural but evocative rendering of the children.



The majority of the show is comprised of Scott's most recent series, the *Waters of Light*, and the *Waters of Half Light*, which sees Scott abandon the emphasis on human figures for an exploration of space and light. Scott's painterly landscapes are infused with the bright and cool sun of March, a visual testament to Pierre Bonnard's suggestion that, "there is always colour, it has yet to become light." The contrast of warm and cool shades creates the effect of intense light, anchored by the white background, achieving both flat and spatial elements. Through Scott's gestural application, the vivid hues move and shift across the remarkable lightness of the canvas. While grounded in abstraction, Scott's canvasses maintain a narrative quality, moving beyond the recreation of a specific moment in time to convey a living, breathing natural world constantly in flux.



Waters no. 6, 2013, oil on terraskin, 28 x 40 in.

Influenced by Chinese and Japanese landscape painting, Scott's paintings abandon traditional perspective, rather choosing to situate the viewer directly within the landscape. The exclusion of the horizon line changes the engagement of the viewer to the work; as Scott explains, "instead of situating oneself in the unknown or in a very certain perspectival space, one is situating the body in a much more direct presence." The remarkable nearness of Scott's paintings creates a sense of being 'in' and traveling through the landscape, establishing a rare immediacy of feeling. Scott's lyrical meditation on the natural world is dynamic and alive, placing her among Canada's best landscape painters.



Step careful, 2010, oil on canvas, 38 x 60 in.

Susan G. Scott was born in Montreal, Quebec and studied painting at the Pratt Institute in New York City. She attended fine art schools in Boston, Maine and Montreal, and finally the New York Studio School of Drawing and Painting. She has since taught in various schools throughout North America and currently teaches at Concordia University in Montreal.

For more information on Susan G. Scott, please visit our [website](#).

or go to www.susangscott.com