

THE DRAWING ROOM 16R Newtown Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937 T 631.324.5016

JANE WILSON

From April 27 through May 29, 2006 The Drawing Room in East Hampton is pleased to present an exhibition of recent watercolors and oils by Jane Wilson, who divides her time between studios in New York and Water Mill, where the changing skies and seas have been her primary subject for more than two decades.

Characterized by low horizons and expansive skies, and often rendered in square compositions, Wilson's vibrant oil paintings and watercolors explore the effect of weather conditions on cloud formations and the light and air surrounding them. While Wilson's name is clearly associated with Eastern Long Island where she spends the warmer months keenly observing meteorological shifts and their impact, she also stands apart from other regional landscape painters. She has earned a reputation as a colorist who approaches representation of the natural world with the freedom associated with gestural abstraction. The thin strips of land or sea that occupy the bottom edge of her compositions emphasize vast skies observed over Long Island farm fields and the nearby ocean, and remembered from her youth in Iowa.

The juxtaposition of ten new small watercolors with selected large oil paintings will offer viewers insight into the artist's distinctive approach to each medium. Many of the watercolors demonstrate the spontaneity of the process that Wilson embraces. "I never do know what image or season may emerge from the end of the sable brush when water, pigment, paper and gravity take over. Most images in transparent watercolor do come from sitting in the welter of sensations of so-called place, but some come out of the always surprising behavior of the ingredients, which to me is another kind of *nature*." In fresh, luminous examples such as *October Light* and *Hazy Chill*, Wilson takes advantage of the watery effects of colors bleeding together as they meet to form an edge that may suggest a horizon or a bank of clouds on the move.

Addressing the irony of aspiring to paint the intangible, Wilson explains "In oil, the goal is to get at the *substance* of thin air using pigments, which are basically ground up earth, and to make the image *look* as if it all happened at once." Whether the warm light that peaks out between soft grey clouds in the monumental painting, *Rain, Heavy at Times*, or the dramatic effect of a cool palette of blues in *Icy Light*, Wilson's paintings capture and transmit an essential aspect of our shared experience of the natural world.

Wilson was born in Seymour, Iowa in 1924. She received her BFA and MA from the University of Iowa before moving to New York City in 1949. She has shown consistently since 1953 when her first solo show was held at the Hansa Gallery. Her work is included in many corporate as well as museum collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Among the many honors she has received are the Lifetime Achievement Award from Guild Hall in East Hampton, NY (2002), The Lotus Club Medal of Merit (1993), and The Benjamin Altman Prize from the National Academy of Design (1990).

For further information or reproductions, please contact Susan Papa at 631.324.5016 or info@drawingroom-gallery.com.