

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

REX LAU  
Acqua Pazza

From February 6 through March 30, 2009, The Drawing Room in East Hampton is pleased to present the concurrent exhibitions *REX LAU: Acqua Pazza* and *New Work* by *ROBERT HARMS, CHRISTINE HIEBERT & JANE WILSON*.

In his new series of small oil paintings on panel, Rex Lau, who lives and works in Montauk, distills his observations of the relationship between landforms and the ocean's powerful currents in seemingly fanciful abstractions. In compositions of concentric patterned brushstrokes radiating around island outcroppings of solid color, Lau imposes a systematic order to evoke both the currents and the effect of light flickering on the water's undulating surface.

Lau's new paintings are constructed with a palette restricted to hues very close in value, a limitation that contributes to their woven effect without diminishing the tactile richness of his oil medium. In some works, contrasting serpentine lines drawn with pastel enhance the arrangements of stitch-like brushstrokes.

Like American Modernist painters Arthur Dove and Marsden Hartley to whose works his paintings have been compared, Lau translates the essence of physical experiences into rigorous formal abstractions.

Lau attended The School of Visual Arts in New York City from 1966 to 1969. Since the late 1970s, he has had 24 solo exhibitions. His work is included in numerous museum collections, among them The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, the Whitney Museum of Art, the Yale University Art Gallery and The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

#### New Work by ROBERT HARMS, CHRISTINE HIEBERT, JANE WILSON

In the adjacent gallery room, new work by Robert Harms, Christine Hiebert and Jane Wilson is presented. In three paintings that Harms created in his pond-front Southampton studio, the shifting natural views that surround his workplace are echoed in his nuanced choices of color and calligraphic gesture. Silhouetted against the white gesso surface of the canvases, thin strokes of luminous pigment coalesce in lyrical abstractions that invite each viewer to recall palpable, spatial memories.

Christine Hiebert's recent abstract drawings continue her exploration of the dialogue between lines of varying weights and texture in compositions suggestive of interior landscapes and evolving structures. By expanding her vocabulary of marks in charcoal and graphite to include swaths of printing ink applied with a roller, Hiebert discovers new possibilities for pushing the drama on the page with a physical presence at once vigorous and graceful.

Jane Wilson's recent watercolors examine the atmospheric effects of weather in a medium she embraces for the spontaneity it requires. In fluid studies such as *Hurricane Rising* (2008), 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.

**Winter hours: Monday, Friday & Saturday, 11–5, Sunday 11-4.**

For further information and reproductions, please contact Sue Papa at 631.324.5016 or [info@drawingroom-gallery.com](mailto:info@drawingroom-gallery.com).