



Michael Abrams

As a child growing up in Rensselaer County in upstate New York, with a view of the Hudson River Valley, I paid little attention to the majestic sunsets and scenic beauty of the area. Those views became deeply ingrained in my subconscious, however, and have profoundly influenced the way I see the world and how I wish it would rather be.

Although nature forms the basis for my paintings, they are a personalized vision in which I am revisiting landscape painting within the context of contemporary art. These idealized landscapes set the stage and give the perception of something otherworldly. They exist almost entirely in the mental space of nostalgic recall. The viewer is introduced to the picture plane as if they are hovering slightly above the ground, adding to the detachment of reality. There is a dissipation of substance into atmosphere, emphasizing misty ambiance over earthly terrain. Only a hint of human presence exists, with a suggestion of roadways and distant fields.

And while the subject matter is a recognizable, natural world, these are studio paintings in which process takes precedent over the tradition of mere documentation. The paintings are rendered with a layering of glazes from semitransparent to opaque creating an atmospheric and luminous quality. The glazes are built up over time, taking the image from an initial stage influenced by images of nature derived from various travels to an idealized form of personalized invention.

