

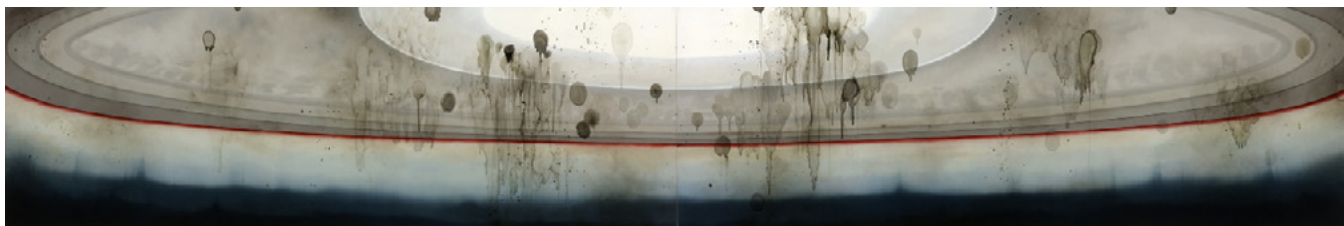
Darren Waterston

Recent Paintings and Works on Paper

April 23 - June 13, 2009

Opening: Saturday, May 2, 2009, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Conversation: Tuesday, April 28 at 5:30 pm at Haines Gallery between Darren Waterston and Timothy Anglin Burgard



Assumption, 2008, Oil on wood panel, 24 x 144 inches

San Francisco—Darren Waterston's recent abstract paintings in his sixth solo exhibition at Haines Gallery bear titles, such as *Beata*, *Mineral Forest*, *Assumption*, *Nightbloom*, that hint at the artist's preoccupation with otherworldly exploration. Mere titles, however, are inadequate for describing the luminous, mysterious images that appear to have been painted with tinted air rather than with oil paint on wood. *Recent Paintings and Works on Paper* includes nine large panels and a salon-style hanging of several framed works on paper and small panel paintings.

In conjunction with the exhibition at Haines Gallery, *Splendid Grief: Darren Waterston and the Afterlife of Leland Stanford, Jr.* will be exhibited at Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, Stanford, California, April 15–July 5, 2009. Events related to these exhibitions are Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 pm, film screening and discussion at Cantor Arts Center Auditorium of "Our Darling Boy: The Brief Life of Leland Stanford, Jr." with discussion between Artist Darren Waterston; Art Department Professor Kristine Samuelson; and Stanford M.F.A. documentary film students Mike Attie and Melanie Vi Levy; **Tuesday, April 28, at 5:30 pm at Haines Gallery, Conversation between**

Darren Waterston and Timothy Anglin Burgard, Ednah Root Curator of American Art at de Young Museum about Waterston's exhibition.

In his early work, Waterston was highly influenced by a landscape tradition ranging from Albrecht Altdorfer, Albert Pinkham Ryder, and Japanese painting of the Edo Period (1603–1867) to Kandinsky and Kupka. His early paintings began with careful observations that he transformed into nature obliquely depicted and marked by a kind of visual instability. Of the recent work, Waterston says, "My current artistic practice is very much about trying further to disengage from material embodiment, or even to 'represent' that disengagement....I set out to construct illusionary spaces that point to another dimension, reality, or sensation of the infinite, always undermining the picture plane. Expressing the nature of this ineffable space requires abstraction, even when it is not labeled as such. The representation of light, refraction, and atmosphere, which has been a constant in my work, has now taken center stage."

Today Waterston uses geological, botanical, and celestial influences to suggest creation myths, cycles of life and decay and sub-molecular structures, alchemic narrative, or the internal space

of psychology or spirituality. Over- and undertones of allegory and apocalyptic visions reveal truths about the past, present, and future.

Darren Waterston was born in California in 1965 and received his B.F.A. at Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, in 1988. He studied painting at Academie der Kunst, Berlin, and Fachhochschule fur Kunst, Munster, Germany. He has previously been the recipient of the Richard C. Diebenkorn Teaching Fellowship at the San Francisco Art Institute and the Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship in Umbertide, Italy, where he was an artist in residence in 2005. Waterston lives and works in San Francisco, California.

Waterston's paintings, watercolors, and murals have been exhibited internationally and are included in many permanent collections, such as Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; The Oakland Museum of California; Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; Berkeley Art Museum, University of California; Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento; and Portland Art Museum, Oregon.

For further information on the artist or the works included in the exhibition, please visit www.hainesgallery.com. Images available upon request.