

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 3rd, 2017

Brian Rutenberg: Clear Seeing Place

Exhibition Dates: April 28 –
June 4, 2017

Artist Reception: Fri, April 28, 5 – 7 pm

Gallery Hours: Mon – Fri, 10-6
Sat, 10-5

LewAllen Galleries

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Canyon, 2017, Oil on linen, 48 x 66 in



Orchard, 2017, Oil on linen, 52 x 77 in

Santa Fe, NM – LewAllen Galleries is pleased to present the inaugural Santa Fe exhibition of well-known New York painter Brian Rutenberg's bold chromatically intense oil paintings inspired by the artist's deep passion for and unique expression of being in nature. Entitled *Clear Seeing Place*, the show opens on Friday, April 28th with a reception for the artist from 5-7pm.

For more than 30 years, the artist's response to the natural world has melded together the seen and the imagined. Inspired by a profound personal connection with the beauty of landscape, Rutenberg extracts its structures, supports, colors and fields, and reassembles them into a unique architecture of place and its experience. His vibrant, painterly abstractions are singular in that they push beyond charm and colorful loveliness; they instead assert themselves with a distinctive muscularity that vividly echoes the grandeur of the American land.

Rutenberg uses an unusual reductive approach that privileges the essentials of landscape as seen through the eyes of an artist in wonder. His orchestrations of vibrant color, light, and texture express the physical and emotional immediacies of being in natural spaces; as he says, "Painting is local knowledge." His painterly responses to nature and place are dazzling, converging a unique sense of chromatic abstraction with familiar trace elements of landscape in his visceral, elegant compositions. His works can be seen as celebratory of painting as an end in itself, but they also may serve to form what he calls "sustained meditations on the sheer transformative power of looking."

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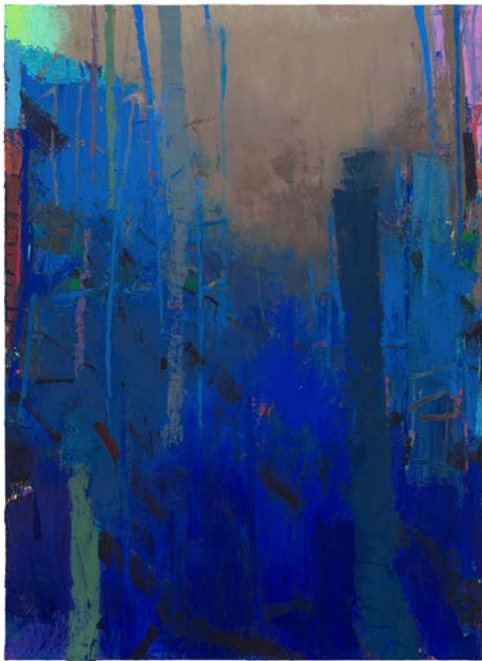
His use of thick, luscious color reveals how enthusiastically Rutenberg embraces the beauty of the world. His style is both conspicuous and recognizable: high-keyed, fauvistly-inflected color applied to canvas with a rich physicality and vigorous texture. Even though there are some recognizable forms in his paintings—trees, horizon, sky—his work is anchored in a true reverence for the aesthetic properties of imagination. Rutenberg says, “It has taken me many decades to see what was there all along; to paint the landscape you must sit with your back to the window.”

A former Fulbright Scholar, Brian Rutenberg was born in South Carolina in 1965 and currently resides and works in New York City. A graduate of the College of Charleston in South Carolina, Rutenberg moved to New York and received a Master of Arts degree from the School of Visual Arts. In 1997, Rutenberg received a Fulbright Scholarship to paint in Ireland. He cites as artists whose work has been inspirational Neo-Expressionist Gregory Amenoff, as well as pivotal figures of Abstract Expressionist painting such as Joan Mitchell and Hans Hofman. His work has been profiled in *Art in America*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Art & Antiques*, and is included in museum collections across the United States.



Rattler, 2017, Oil on linen, 48 x 66 in

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Hudson, 2017, Oil on linen, 82 x 60 in



Orion, 2017, Oil on linen, 60 x 82 in



Thicket, 2017, Oil on linen, 52 x 77 in