

## Gail Salzman

Pure abstract art eschews any recognizable reference to visible reality while figurative painting attempts, in varying degrees, to reproduce an illusion of the world we see, the world we recognize in photographs. Somewhere between these two modes of artistic expression lie the recent powerful oil paintings of Gail Salzman.

What is Echo 2 a painting of? Two circles? One circle reflected? A portal? A sinuous ribbon? Maybe it is all these things- or none of them. What is familiar and keeps this painting from being pure abstraction is a sense of gravity, a sense of highlight, shade and reflection. There is something we know here that reflects our visual experience. The painting is grounded in reality but dips into abstraction because we can't really say what it is a painting of.



*Echo 2, oil on linen, 36" x 32"*

Salzman, describing her work, states: "The source of my painting is the convergence of memory and nature- an overlapping of inner and outer reality. The pond outside my studio and the tidal pools of coastal Maine inspire recurring motifs of biomorphic forms and looping lines."

This painting may dance between abstraction and figurative representation, between inner and outer reality, but it is not tentative. It has a definitive and a muscular fortitude that is full of life. As its title indicates, Echo 2 is a reverberation between the two worlds of experience and memory.

*- Adelaide Tyrol*

*Gail Salzman is represented by Furchgott -Sourdiffe Gallery in Shelburne, VT ([www.fsgallery.com](http://www.fsgallery.com)). Her work will be exhibited at ArtHop in Burlington VT Sept 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Salzman teaches art at Burlington City Arts and Community College of VT and she is a recipient of a National Endowment of the Arts painting award. Gail may be reached through her website:[www.gailsalzman.com](http://www.gailsalzman.com)*