

NAOMI LIFSCHITZ-GRANT

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work has always fluctuated between working directly from life and working abstractly from the ideas that emerge from my direct observations of the world. The interaction of color, the passage of light through space, scale and pattern on canvas and paper fascinate me and I grapple with these formal problems whether I am working from direct observation or in the confines of my studio trying to solve the riddle of a large abstract painting.

A series of works usually originates from the drawing and painting that I do in the landscape and when I return to my studio I continue to explore these ideas with shapes, marks and the movement of light across the surface of a canvas. For instance, in artist residencies that I did in Cornwall, England and Vallauris, France, both located on their respective coasts, I observed the patterns, movement, timelessness, abundance and tides of the sea. My observations in landscape inspired the large abstract works that I did back in my studio in New York City. Like water, these paintings explore a space that lacks boundaries and form. Hollow circles reveal subtle nuances that move the viewers back and forth, up and down and in and out of the paintings.

Over the years, I have used several different mediums including drawing, painting and collage. I often start with drawing to generate and explore ideas and concepts, however, I will return to drawing throughout the process to flesh-out or experiment with an idea. Through the process of painting I use thin washes of paint to create deep color fields to build a sense of internal light that emanates from the painting. The process of making collages also reflects the manner in which I create my paintings. My collages are made with transparent Japanese rice papers and by layering the paper I am able to create new colors, light and depth.

My artwork reflects the quiet and contemplative manner in which they were created. Each work's idiosyncrasies and quiriness are highlighted, each detail revealed as part of a meditative process of creation.