

We The People:

**PRESERVE OUR RIGHT
TO CLEAN WATER**

Fourth Annual Fine Art Exhibition

May 16 – August 1, 2026



Ana Vizcarra Rankin

As on Land, So at Sea, 2026

Mixed media on birch panel, 36" x 36"

WE THE PEOPLE:
Preserve Our Right to Clean Water
Fourth Annual Fine Art Exhibition

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION

The Fairmount Water Works, for more than two centuries, built on a foundation of civic duty, science, engineering and environmental sustainability preserved through it's history and education. In 1976, honoring our Nation's Bicentennial, the Fairmount Water Works was designated as a National Historic Landmark for its architectural beauty and engineering innovations.

The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania proclaims people have the right to clean air and pure water and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 was the first major U.S. law to address water pollution. Growing public awareness and concern for controlling water pollution led to amendments in 1972. The law became commonly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) has been a national leader in educating the public about the value of clean water and the need for public stewardship of our regional and local watersheds. This exhibition encapsulates these ideas and invites visitors to engage in thought and discussion sparked by a series of events which celebrate clean water including a fine art exhibition, installations, dance performances and interactive displays throughout the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Keith Breitfeller , *Emily Brown, Brian David Dennis, Thom Duffy, **Benjamin Passione, Rinal Parikh , Amie Potsic , Ana Vizcarra Rankin, Robert Reinhardt and Michael Williamson.

COURTESY OF GALLERIES

*Avery Galleries and **Gross McCleaf Gallery

The exhibition, is curated by Thom Duffy under the direction of Karen Young, FWWIC Director, and brought to you in part by the Fund for the Water Works and the Edward F. Grusheski Water Literacy Foundation.

Inquiries and purchases are direct between the purchaser and the artists or their gallery representation.
Contact information follows Checklist.

If you should need assistance in connecting please contact
Thom Duffy at 215-760-4124 or ThomDuffy64@mac.com.

A percentage of all sales will support The Fund for the Water Works' mission to preserve the Fairmount Water Works and one of a kind education initiatives such as the Floating Water Workshop.

Thank you!

CHECKLIST w/ PRICES

ARTIST'S NAME	TITLE, DATE	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	VALUE
Keith R. Breitfeller	<i>Push Pull C, 2022</i>	Oil on canvas	50" x 50"	\$6,600.00
Keith R. Breitfeller	<i>2024 A</i>	Oil on canvas	18" x 18"	\$1,325.00
Keith R. Breitfeller	<i>2024 C</i>	Oil on canvas	18" x 18"	\$1,325.00
Emily Brown	<i>First Crush</i>	Sumi ink on paper	17.75" x 12"	\$3,500.00
Emily Brown	<i>Blue Ripples</i>	Sumi ink on paper	23" x 30"	\$5,000.00
Brian David Dennis	<i>Tumble Well No.4, 2016</i>	Mixed media	30" x 30"	\$2,000.00
Brian David Dennis	<i>Format 60 Mo.4095</i>	Mixed media	60" x 20"	\$3,000.00
Thom Duffy	<i>We The People, 2026</i>	Acrylic on Arches watercolor paper	28" x 36"	\$2,000.00
Thom Duffy	<i>Crimes to the Environment, 2026</i>	Acrylic on Arches watercolor paper	28" x 36"	\$2,000.00
Rinal Parikh	<i>Diving Duck, 2022</i>	Mixed media on handmade paper	40" x 32"	\$4,700.00
Rinal Parikh	<i>Heron, 2015</i>	Mixed media on handmade paper	36" x 28"	\$3,400.00
Rinal Parikh	<i>Reflection, 2023</i>	Mixed media on hardboard	12" x 12"	\$1,100.00
Benjamin Passione	<i>David Panama</i>	Oil on canvas	44" x 50"	\$6,500.00
Benjamin Passione	<i>Dreaming in Tides</i>	Oil on canvas	28" x 22"	\$2,500.00
Benjamin Passione	<i>The River Carrying the Skies</i>	Oil on canvas	30" x 24"	\$2,800.00
Amie Potsic	<i>Spring Ranch Wildflowers - Mendocino Coast, California, 2026</i>	Archival Pigment Print	14" x 22"	\$888.00
Amie Potsic	<i>Hearn Gluch Cove - Mendocino Coast, California, 2026</i>	Archival Pigment Print	14" x 22"	\$888.00

ARTIST'S NAME	TITLE, DATE	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	VALUE
Amie Potsic	<i>INSTALLATION - Rising Tides, 2026</i>	Archival Pigment Print on Silk	180 Linear feet	\$12,340.00
Ana Vizcarra Rankin	<i>As on Land, So at Sea, 2026</i>	Mixed media on birch panel	36" x 36"	\$3,500.00
Robert Reinhardt	<i>With A Little Help From My Friends #1</i>	Mono-print collage	12"x12"	\$500.00
Robert Reinhardt	<i>With A Little Help From My Friends #3</i>	Mono-print collage	12"x12"	\$500.00
Robert Reinhardt	<i>With A Little Help From My Friends #5</i>	Mono-print collage	18" x 14"	\$600.00
Michael Williamson	<i>When Storm Clouds Gather</i>	Acrylic and mixed media	12" x 36"	\$900.00
Michael Williamson	<i>Untitled Diptych</i>	Acrylic and mixed media	12" x 24"	\$600.00
Michael Williamson	<i>Three Days of Rain</i>	Acrylic and mixed media	18" x 54"	\$3,500.00

ARTIST/GALLERY CONTACT INFORMATION

ARTIST'S NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Keith Breitfeller	215-732-4501	breitfeller.art@gmail.com
Emily Brown/AVERY GALLERIES	610-213-7503	ladams@averygalleries.com
Brian David Dennis	215-732-4501	brian.dennis.art@gmail.com
Thom Duffy	215-760-4124	ThomDuffy64@mac.com
Rinal Parikh	610-717-2882	rinal.Parikh@gmail.com
Benjamin Passione/ GROSS McCLEAF GALLERY	215-665-8138	emmarose@grossmccleaf.com
Amie Potsic	610-731-6312	amie@amiepotsidartadvisory.com
Ana Vizcarra Rankin	215-738-0151	paintedfoot@gmail.com
Robert Reinhardt	215-869-1737	bobreinhardt2023@yahoo.com
Michael Williamson	215-350-9715	mtairymichael@gmail.com

Keith Breitfeller makes quiet paintings, works that lure you with their whispers of serenity. Everyone loves a good mystery, and these do a good job of keeping their secrets.

-Adeaner, tackad

Keith Breitfeller Biography

Keith R. Breitfeller was raised in Catasauqua, a small town in eastern Pennsylvania, in 1952. Keith had a hunger to explore beyond the boundaries of this little hamlet. He harassed his parents until they allowed him to take art lessons in Allentown, a nearby city. Later, he attended Kutztown College, then furthering his studies in New York Artist, Marion Pinto. The keystone of his methods was acquired at the Barnstone Studio, a Renaissance-type Master and Apprentice program. The heavy emphasis on the Golden Section and color theory continues to inform his work.

Residing in Philadelphia, Keith has exhibited locally for 30 years with solo exhibits at Vox Populi, Sande Webster Gallery, Abington Art Center, and Perkin's Center for the Arts. Outside of the region, he has shown in Texas, Tennessee, Massachusetts, and in Austria. His work is included in many private and corporate collections in Athens, London, Dubai, and throughout the Northeast. In the last few years, he has completed many commissions.

Artist Statement

My work has been influenced by the impressionist, modernist and pointillist. I use figure to ground relationships to deliberately confuse the subject matter, allowing the viewer to find, him or herself, in the artwork. The use of small individual brush strokes and the placement of one color against the next gives an ever changing color palette to the piece.

The theme of my painting has been a search for stillness, a form of mediative calm. Painting is my escape from a world of too much noise and information. It's a way to step away from those inner dialogues that keep us from being truly calm. My work is an oasis away from the complexities of modern living where one can reflect on what is essential.

-Keith R. Breitfeller

Emily Brown Biography

Raised in rural Chester County in a family devoted to medicine and mental health, Emily Brown has long drawn from the natural landscape for personal renewal and visual imagery. Brown's practice began with small scale plein air oil paintings of the countryside of inland Maine and parts of Philadelphia. Her restless curiosity led to making larger paintings outdoors, some with multiple images or as diptychs or triptychs. With the acquisition of a studio she explored work in other materials and at larger scales, evolving an interactive practice of ink wash drawing. Her recent subjects include trees and sections of woods, details on the ground, and water surfaces. Moved by the transience of every living thing, she values the practice of looking hard at what is - and then partnering with the aqueous medium to convey a sense of the experience.

The artist has taught in many ways: inner city pre-school programs, middle school art at Baldwin, drawing at the University of the Arts, and painting and drawing at PAFA. For 8 years she worked as costumer for the drama dept at Germantown Friends School. She and her husband, the photographer Will Brown, currently live and work in Garrison, New York.

Artist Statement

Farms and gardens, hot showers, big drinks of cold water, clean dishes: as essential as water is, physically, to all living beings, it serves our spirits as well. How joyous to skim in a boat or on skis on a water surface and watch others as they balance and glide. To dive and swim, to relax and soak, and to then rise up out of the water into air and to dry off with towel and sun: worldwide healthy pleasures.

On puddle, pond, lake or ocean one reads the ripples, waves and foam for signals of shifts in local conditions, the surface hints of changes.

And as we watch, it mirrors our powerful feelings - our fears, our deep longings, our subtle thoughts, our hope for constancy, and our awe.

~ Emily Brown

Brian David Dennis Biography

Brian was born in 1959. He was raised in a home with movable walls designed by his father, an aspiring artist. The openness and fluidity of the modular arrangement captured Brian's imagination. His mother, a kindergarten teacher encouraged Brian's free thinking and constant building.

As a student Brian considered following his passion for stage design, but sought the more personal expression the fine arts offered. He studied drawing and painting at the Pennsylvania Academy. He quickly settled into collage and assemblage. In the mid 80's he began to explore installation using the exhibition location as an essential part of the piece.

A life long resident of Pennsylvania, Brian has lived and worked in Philadelphia since 1984 with his life partner Keith Breitfeller. He began exhibiting with the cooperative gallery, Vox Populi and remained an active member for 15 years. He has held solo exhibits in Austria, the Philadelphia Art Alliance, the Sande Webster Gallery as well as a prestigious Fleisher Challenge. He has been granted an Independence Foundation Fellowship and other awards. In 2016 he was commissioned by Longwood Gardens.

Artist Statement

I am a multimedia visual artist. My body of work ranges from large installations to small collages. From immersive to intimate, I seek to extrude the extraordinary from the common. I've constructed soaring towers of coffee stirrers and present lost worlds discovered in minute street trash. My imagination dives into the everyday world to manifest wondrous realms. Much as I rummage for art materials, I also plunder the art canon for influences. The project and the process dictate his sources. My tormented figures refer to Francis Bacon. The installations are direct descendants of Josef Svoboda's stage designs. Minimalist edicts temper my spontaneous chaos. Central to my aesthetic concerns are always balance, tension, and surface. "The piece is the subject, not the content."

There is a solid autobiographical thread running through my lifelong body of work. The narrative details in earlier projects were shrouded in diffusing layers. With a mature understanding, the confusion and conflict of my past have given way to peace. My work's always raw and emotive nature is now infused with a powerful honesty. As an artist, I crave the sweet moments while working when I slip beneath my conscious control. While making art, I seek to lose awareness of the outside world and myself. I am free when working from within, untethered to expectation and thought, even if what comes to the surface is the worst experience of my life.

Thom Duffy Biography

Thom's career in the fine art spans more than thirty years. He is a studio trained figurative artist who explores realistic, dreamlike and abstraction imagery. He works varied mediums including; graphite, pen and ink, watercolor, acrylics on watercolor paper and canvas . Thom's work is based on observation of nature and the life around him. Personal experiences and a lifetime of memories conjure imagery. Inspiring subjects include Saints, religious narrative themes, masculine male figures(wrestlers and bodybuilders), animals, pet portraits, nature, still life, landscape, cityscapes and environmental issues and themes. Thom resides in South Philly and bicycles throughout Philadelphia which remains his favorite urban subject.

Thom is the sole owner of Thom Duffy Fine Art LLC. His professional background in art management and curating include local galleries and fine art institutions in Philadelphia. Thom's paintings have been included in several juried exhibitions in Philadelphia and surrounding suburbs. The Art of State(PA), Wayne Art Center, Philadelphia Sketch Club, William Way Community Center, Inliquid.com, DaVinci Art Alliance, and other area art centers. Thom is currently curating special fine art exhibitions that are historic and environmentally themed for the Fairmount Water Works. His work has received awards and honors in previously mentioned institutions. Thom is also an art collector and broker representing a diverse and inclusive group of national and locally acclaimed artists.

Rinal Parikh - Biography

I am a biochemist by education and an artist by profession. Born and brought up in India, my work has been highly influenced by Indian folk art. I learned to understand and appreciate different Indian folk arts through my travels around the country. Each state has its own folk art style which has its own vocabulary, color palette, mediums, and motifs, which was quite mesmerizing to me. However, the common thread in all of these different Indian folk arts was most of the artists were women and their subjects were expressions of civilization, the environment they were surrounded in, their daily routine, and their beliefs. Even though I admire each and every style of Indian folk art; Madhubani, Kalamkari, and Warli styles have captured my attention. Madhubani style is known for its preliminary imagery, most dynamic color palette, and not leaving any negative spaces. The empty spaces in the painting are filled with flowers, leaves, or eye-catching geometric shapes. Kalamkari style is one of the most decorative forms of Indian folk. It's ornamental nature and constrained color palette make it most suitable for Indian textiles. Whereas, Warli style is one of the most interesting styles of Indian folk art in my opinion. It is the storytelling style of painting. It is one of the oldest forms of Indian folk art and has the most basic vocabulary: circles and triangles. It is a mural art and done to ornate the outside walls of mud houses. The paintings are done with two colors, white or black for the characters and brown color from the mud plaster. I think the vibrancy of the painting comes out through the stories it portrays and not through the colors. Over the period of time, I have adapted the essence of each style and woven them into my painting to create my own signature style. However, whichever style I am in the mood to portray my subject, the aim is to preserve the beauty of the subject. The focus is always to create balance and harmony within the colors and graphics, create delicate and intricate surroundings, and achieve the finest details using super fine 000 brushes.

I am humbled and honored to be recognized by several prestigious art organizations like The Philadelphia Sketch Club and The Art Association of Harrisburg for my work. My artwork has been acquired by several educational institutes throughout the USA and by avid art collectors worldwide.

I am an art education enthusiast. When I am not creating new work in my studio, I enjoy teaching art to young kids and adults from my studio, local school, and art organizations. I serve on the board of many local art organizations like Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show.

Benjamin Passione - Biography

Benjamin Passione was born in Willingboro, NJ in 1987. He attended life drawing classes at Moore College of Art & Design and then completed the Certificate program at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

There, he studied painting under artists Bill Scott and Sidney Goodman, and was a recipient of the Lewis S. Ware Travel Scholarship.

His work is in the permanent collection of Woodmere Art Museum, and *The Way I Remember It* is his fourth solo show at Gross McCleaf Gallery.

Passione lives and works in Philadelphia with his wife, fellow artist Mickayel Thurin, and their two sons, Maurice and Maximo. Passione and Thurin were Artists in Residence of the Philadelphia Art Museum during the summer of 2023.

Artist Statement

“My paintings emerge from sustained study and labor, shaped by an ongoing attachment to material and process. Each work is an attempt at sincerity, a rendering of internal conditions rather than fixed narratives. The images exist as moments of realization, provisional and evolving, reflecting the instability of perception and emotion in the present.

Awkwardness and uncertainty are not avoided but embraced as part of the work’s honesty. In seeking to capture feeling, the process often reveals its own limitations; the act of translation remains imperfect. Yet it is within this inadequacy that meaning persists. The paintings hold the residue of effort, emotion, and attention, records of an attempt that continues.”

- BENJAMIN PASSIONE

Amie Potsic Biography

Amie Potsic is an internationally exhibited photographer and installation artist whose work explores cultural, personal, and natural phenomena through immersive, research-driven projects. Her exhibitions include the Art Park in Rhodes, Greece; El Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá, Colombia; Medfoundart di Cagliari, Italy; the Royal College of London; Woodmere Art Museum; and The Delaware Contemporary, where her work was awarded in *Experimental Photography Today*. In 2025, Potsic was invited to the Foundation House Artist Residency and presented at the AIPAD Art Fair in New York. Potsic holds an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) and BA degrees in Photojournalism and English Literature from Indiana University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. She was a faculty member at UC Berkeley, Ohlone College, and SFAI while exhibiting her work extensively in California. Her work has been featured on National Public Radio and 6abc television and published in *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Potsic is the author of the 2024 monograph *Seeker* and is host of the *Art is the Answer* Podcast.

Artist Statement

My work references the sensory experience of being on the Northern California coast while encouraging us to appreciate and preserve the future of our treasured oceans. Incarnate environmental explorations, my photographs and installations invite you to connect with your own perception of nature in a manner that is both intimate and enchanting. Personal experience underscoring the urgency of climate change, I focus on the power and dynamism of the coastal landscape to conjure emotional connections to our ocean environment. I draw attention to the breathtaking life force threatened by ocean endangerment through visceral and cerebral connections to the aquatic world. We, the people, have the gift of being nurtured by our seas as we are called to protect and steward their future.

Amie Potsic - Statement
Rising Tides - An Immersive Installation

Rising Tides is designed with 180 linear feet of silk imprinted with photographic imagery I created on location on the Mendocino Coast in Northern California. I have annually traversed the iconic Route 1 along the California Coast for seven years on self-directed artist residencies, where I have created images and impressions of the rare and unique Pacific Coastal Redwood ecosystem. I have borne witness to the rugged and powerful Pacific Ocean with its remote bluff trails, redwood forests, and jagged cliffs as I chased the tides, sun, and moon. *Rising Tides* transforms images I created of the sea to highlight shared rights and desires to have clean water coast to coast. Our oceans, rivers, and streams are integral to our communities, our health, and our connection to the environment. We, the people, have the gift of being nurtured by our seas as we are called to protect and steward their future.

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The exhibition is curated by Thom Duffy under the direction of Karen Young, FWWIC Director, and brought to you in part by the Fund for the Water Works and the Edward F. Grusheski Water Literacy Foundation.

ANA VIZCARRA RANKIN - BIOGRAPHY

Born in Uruguay and raised in both South and North America, Ana Vizcarra Rankin makes research-based and perceptual art about mapping, language, data visualization, and our sense of being in and of the universe. Her work ranges from monumental canvases to delicate, diminutive pieces, encompassing events at the subatomic scale through global and cosmic perspectives.

Rankin has exhibited extensively, and her work is held in numerous public collections including the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Brandywine River Museum of Art, Uruguay Cultural Foundation for the Arts, Peoria Riverfront Museum, Franklin Furnace Collection at MOMA New York, Brooklyn Art Library, and Print Council of Australia. Awards include a Project Stream Grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and funding from Creative Capital x Skoll.

Rankin participated in the first TrueQué Artist Residency in Ayampe, Ecuador, was a Barnes Artist in Residence in Umbertide, Italy, and a resident artist at Liliput Experimental in Puebla, Mexico. She is the founder of BrobDinGnag International; a curatorial exchange program focused on diversity and inclusion. She received her MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and her BA in Art History from Temple University.

ARTIST STATEMENT

In my quest for balance, I am often drawn to alternative views of our surroundings: world maps with Antarctica at the top; planets made entirely of humanity; dark spaces filled with stars, surrounded by the constantly developing horizon. The availability of information and how it is conveyed fascinates me. Inherent biases such as North/South orientation, or helpful fictions like false color renderings give me a starting point for investigating our relationship to visual language and physicality.

Anything can be translated into a map, with varying degrees of legibility or accuracy, but always from a specific point of view – which can itself dictate what the map is *really* about. Erasure or replacement of names given by hegemony and colonizers give substance to a new reality. Which always brings it back to the human perspective: human scale, slowly or quickly decaying materials, flawed but ever evolving, imperfect but perfectible.

In the extraordinary complexity of our known universe, our planet stands as the unique example of a living ecosystem. I want people to feel wonder – to go outside, especially at night, and look up. I want us to plant more trees than we consume and be able to drink and go swimming in clean water. My artwork is a representation of these desires in a language that I understand better than words.

ROBERT REINHARDT - Biography

Robert Reinhardt is an artist/educator who actively explores his love of nature versus man-made structures through printmaking, photography, collage, and painting. He holds degrees from Tyler School of Art and the University of the Arts. He is an art instructor who has taught at Germantown Friends School, The Fleisher Art Memorial, St. George's School in Edinburgh, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. His work has been widely exhibited in numerous national and local juried exhibitions, and his artwork is held in various public, corporate, and private collections. Select collections include the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Edinburgh Central Library, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), and the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Robert's photography can be viewed at Scotland's HES website and in the collection of the Philadelphia Free Public Library.

Robert's paintings and mixed media works can be viewed at robertreinhardtart.com.

Robert's collaborative work can be viewed at digitalartistscollective.com

Artist Statement

In my artistic practice, I explore the endless possibilities of mixed media and their transformative power. Through a fusion of diverse materials and processes, I seek to create a visual language that transcends traditional boundaries, inviting viewers to delve into a realm where innovation and imagination intertwine. Each artwork is an intimate dialogue between materials, in which the unpredictable encounters among various media give rise to unexpected narratives.

My mono-print collages navigate the intersection of paint, ink, collage, and printmaking techniques, allowing each element to contribute its unique voice to the creative chorus. This eclectic mix unlocks a boundless array of expressive potential, pushing the boundaries of each image. My artistic process is marked by experimentation, playfulness, and a deep reverence for the materials I work with. Layers upon layers of textures, colors, and forms emerge, woven together in a tapestry of visual storytelling. The interplay of light and shadow, the juxtaposition of rough and smooth surfaces, and the tension between organic and geometric shapes converge to create a rich tapestry of sensory experiences.

Through this diverse artistic vocabulary, I aim to evoke a range of emotions and sensations, inviting viewers to interpret and engage with the artwork on a personal level. By embracing multiple processes and media, I navigate the boundary between traditional and contemporary, blurring disciplinary lines and inviting dialogue among diverse artistic traditions. Ultimately, my art aims to ignite curiosity and bridge gaps between artistic expressions, encouraging viewers to embark on their own transformative journeys.

Michael Williamson Artist Biography

Michael Williamson is a practicing artist living in the Philadelphia area. He has been a teacher of Studio Art and Art History at independent schools in the Delaware Valley and California. Williamson is a graduate of Yale University and Bard College.

Williamson is currently a lecturer and Senior Instructor of Adult Education at the Barnes Foundation.

During the early part of the pandemic the Barnes created Barnes Take-Out, short presentations by curatorial and the education department staff available on YouTube to keep art, ideas, and the Barnes Foundation present in the minds of the public. Michael created content for The Baule Door in Context and West African Art at the Barnes Foundation, Chaim Soutine: Flayed Rabbit that was the lead-in to the exhibition Conversations in Paint: Chaim Soutine and WillemDeKooning.

Williamson has developed course content and taught Color Theory, Watercolors of Cezanne, Charles Demuth and Paul Klee, Painting and Photography, Art and Literature of the Harlem Renaissance, The Great Migration, Matisse and Color, Great French Painting: School of Paris, Order and Invention (systems of perspective, proportion, and pictorial organization) as well as lectures on Paul Seurat's The Models, Cezanne's Card Players, Picasso and Cubism, Picasso Infinite Invention: Acrobat and Young Harlequin and Girl with a Goat, Horace Pippin: Two Americas, One White, One Black, Separate and Unequal, Matisse and Modernism, CharlesDemuth: The Perfect Moment, and Charles Demuth: American Precisionist.

Artist Statement

Speak Memory is the title of an evocative memoir by Vladimir Nabokov. It is a sensualist's recollection of his early childhood through the distilled, self-aware perspective of the adult novelist.

It is through the lens of memory and feeling that these landscapes emerge. These paintings, their light, color, and tactile surfaces are more about feeling, memory, dream, remembrance, and forgetting.

Most recently I've been reading *The 1619 Project*, Nicole Hannah-Jones, *The Brutish Museums*, Dan Hicks, and *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson and this has informed my subconscious about the forced journey my ancestors made to the Americas. In my mind, these currently constructed paintings trace a journey to freedom from West Africa, South Carolina, and Virginia. The land of my ancestors is the land of savage beauty.

"I am the dream and the hope of the slave." Maya Angelou

-Michael Williamson



Thom Duffy
We The People, 2026
Acrylic on Arches watercolor paper, 28" x 36"