

An abstract painting featuring a dense, textured composition of vertical brushstrokes. The color palette is rich and varied, including deep reds, bright yellows, vibrant greens, and purples, all set against a background of white and light grey. The strokes are thick and expressive, creating a sense of movement and depth. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the middle of the painting, containing the text "WHAT IS A PAINTING?".

**WHAT IS A
PAINTING?**

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Sarah Barker

Darla Bjork

John Adam Fahey

Nate Orton

Padma Rajendran

Laurel Sucsy*

Laura Taylor

Robert Tomlinson

** work courtesy of John Davis Gallery*

OCTOBER 27 - DECEMBER 2, 2018

OPENING RECEPTION: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 5-8 PM

KAATERSKILL FINE ARTS GALLERY

Hunter Village Square

7971 Main Street, Village of Hunter

518 263 2060 • www.catskillmtn.org

What Is A Painting?

When photography came to prominence in the late 1800's, it freed visual artists from making paintings as documentations of what people looked like (often, who was in power), what our environs had become or how far-away places were different than our familiar landscapes.

With this new freedom came the opportunity to look at art in a more expansive way, which included thinking about how paint was applied, influences of "primitive" art and the effects of motion pictures in terms of different ways of perceiving, gathering and disseminating visual information.

Witnessing the horrific brutality and devastation of two world wars gave rise to increased global anxieties, the formulation of existentialism as a philosophical movement and the combined weight of absurdity and chance. This fostered profound changes in how artists approached their self-portraits and later, exploring abstraction as a means of coming to terms with the new, modern world.

In the 1960's when pop art faded and minimalism took hold, our attentions shifted into object-centered or conceptually oriented three-dimensional works.

Many wondered if painting was "dead". Then, the 1980's exploded with expressive, often figurative, colorful paintings.

As part of the Catskill Mountain Foundation's 20th anniversary, we pause to consider the relevance and interest in painting today. We concluded that it is as alive, varied and engaging as it has ever been and hope that you will find this overview a worthy platform for asking, "What is a Painting?"

I grew up in Minnesota, a descendent of Norwegian and German settlers who arrived there in the 1850's and made just about everything they needed by hand, including rugs. Weaving Color #1 is in honor of my maternal grandmother who had a large loom in her basement and wove many colorful but utilitarian rugs. The very process of weaving seemed magical to me as a child. When I started this painting I didn't have a clear idea as to what would happen but as I struggled along I found myself weaving the colors together in a playful manner and then remembered all the rugs that she made on a loom. I finally knew where I was and what I was doing. Making more rugs.

—Darla Bjork



Darla Bjork, Weaving Color Series #1
Encaustic and oil stick on wood
40"x32" 2018



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