*“Painting gives visible existence to what profane vision believes to be invisible.”*

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, The Phenomonology of Perception.

**Artist Statement**

My paintings explore specific qualities of light as both an observed experience and as a phenomenon of memory of place. Sometimes I recall the expectant light of a moisture infused morning. Other times I think about the retreating warmth in the light of early evening.

Along with the specificity of the type of light in each painting, there is also a sense of the universal in that the paintings are not depicting any particular view of scenery. Rather they serve as an archetype to the process of painting itself, with the insistence of gestural brush strokes confirming the overall idea of the painting as an abstraction first and foremost.

These are abstract paintings rooted in the here and now by making use of both observed light and a remembered sense of space.

**Deliciously close, yet deliriously distant…like the mirage… approaching the edge of recognition, yet careful to remain untouchable…it is in this phenomenological space between the known and the unknown, that my paintings find life.**

My artistic influences include, but are not solely limited to: Claude Monet, Vincent Van Gogh, Pierre Bonnard, Mark Rothko, Clyfford Still, and Susan Rothenberg.

Lyle J. Salmi 2023