

## UPCOMING SHOW

*Up to 16 works*

Sept. 8-Nov. 10, 2012

Jerald Melberg Gallery

625 S. Sharon Amity Road

Charlotte, NC 28211

(704) 365-3000

• SHOW LOCATION CHARLOTTE, NC



# BRIAN RUTENBERG

## Visible fields

Despite the abstract look of his paintings, Brian Rutenberg is every bit a landscape painter. Instead of dwelling on abstraction or representation, he sees such labels as verbs, as a journey or process instead of an end result.

"I prefer to think of abstraction not as a style but as a process," says Rutenberg. "I am a landscape painter who arrives at my paintings through the process of abstraction."

The titles of Rutenberg's pieces refer to

actual objects or places found in nature (e.g., cherry grove, gray thunder, river) and these are his starting points, but his work is much more than depictions of them.

"I am not interested in depicting a place in paint but in the total possessing of it," says Rutenberg. "My work is about removing or distilling down but the roots are in the visual experience. It is very important to me that these paintings enact place and feel like the markings of a

tangible, physical experience."

Beyond the style that the work and feelings manifest themselves in, Rutenberg also is concerned with showing evidence of his painting journey in each work.

"Thickness, weight, gravity, marks, tools—these are all evidence of the painting process," notes Rutenberg. "It takes place over months and involves decisions, hierarchies, mistakes, redos and layers of time all compressed into this visible field. I want to give the viewer a sense of



CHERRY GROVE 3, OIL ON LINEN, 50 X 72"





RIVER, OIL ON LINEN, 63 X 158"



GRAY THUNDER, OIL ON LINEN, 36 X 72"

that visual process and through that the enacting of a place, a physical place.”

Rutenberg’s process also connects him to his past and from being born and raised on the coast of South Carolina. While his paintings don’t specifically reference these places, that experience of the natural world

early in his life still fuels his work today.

“It got under my skin and I want to do something with that visual experience,” says Rutenberg. “It’s so beautiful that I couldn’t stand it and had to do something about it. As a kid I would see air around me, between things, and one of my jobs as a painter is

to paint air, to make that tangible, visible and physical.” ●

*For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to*



[www.americanartcollector.com](http://www.americanartcollector.com)