

August on First Neck Lane

I have always used nature based subject matter as the starting point for my work, usually combining the feel of a season or an acute observation from my surroundings to create a new visual language. In the 'August' series of paintings and drawings the focus has been expanded to include an entire garden thus creating an allover effect of endless combinations and movement.

Late summer in the Hamptons is a very special time of the year. Beautiful light and lush foliage are in great supply and the private gardens are at their peak. Ornamental grasses, hostas, cleomes, cannas, hydrangeas, begonias, daylilies, lavender, roses and black-eyed susans are flourishing en masse and I was lucky enough to spend some time at my friend's estate on First Neck Lane and enjoy this Eden.

There has been a blurring of the lines between painting and drawing, and drawing and writing as this story is told. The use of oil paint on paper combined with pencil, pencil crayon and in some cases soft pastel created the exact effect of layering and movement that I was looking to achieve. The overall effect from a distance is compelling and with closer observation new discoveries are made as details reveal themselves.

Some of the pieces have yellow pencil crayon adding another dimension to the overall effect. I thought the color worked with the themes and all the grey, black and white. The scale and shape of the work was deliberate and really allows the gestural quality of the work to entertain the viewer. At the beginning of 2008 I became increasingly interested in the work of Jackson Pollock. The allover effect and web like quality of his masterpieces definitely had an influence on this body of work.