



Dear Art Lovers,

Have you ever wished to escape from where you are? Ever looked for escape routes to get away fast, just in case? A friend of ours, an art lover, observed recently that there is always an "opening" in my paintings, an "escape route" from the scene. She noted the roads and trails in my landscapes, and I confessed that I put in roads and trails for their potential to pull you into the painting and lead you off to some unknown space. But the "opening" we did not discuss is the sky. It's really the sky that provides the opening in my paintings, even in the water tank pictures and cityscapes. It's the source, and the filter, for all of our light.

The sky could be the quickest route out of town, of course, should you need to escape this sometimes confining city on short notice. But there is no helicopter waiting for me on the roof. And even if I could launch myself into the atmosphere under my own power, I wouldn't really want to escape New York. I'm a happy citizen sitting here, looking out the window at my personal patch of the southern sky and marveling at its constant movement.



Morning View, North
18 x 24
Oil on canvas

The colors of the sky are the first ones I mix. The other colors have to harmonize with the sky. No matter how engaging or captivating the scene below it, the sky is always with us, here, there, everywhere, to remind us that all these chockablock buildings, all these weather-beaten water towers, and even all these trees and flowers, all of them, all of it, all of us, are only parts of a temporary scene, our colors and our shadows as ephemeral in the grand scheme of things as the light that illuminates us for that brief moment captured in the painting.

This first painting is the northern view from our eighth floor bedroom at around mid-morning on a spring day. I painted this in part to show how the different blues, direct sky and reflected sky, harmonize with each other. Also, my muse and I have both grown quite fond of the old water tank in the foreground and thought that it needed to be memorialized. We've been watching it age and grow more weather-beaten for almost twenty years.



New Jersey Sunset
24 x 36
Oil on canvas

This next picture is a view from a friend's rooftop on the West Side. The time is late summer, the river is the mighty Hudson, and the sky, well, what can I say? Skies like this don't come around here that often and don't stay very long when they do. The only way to capture such a dramatic sky is to take a picture. The rest is...well, you be the judge.

This picture looks toward New Jersey from the end of 26th Street, a few longitudes west of my studio. We were grateful to our friend for the invitation to her private rooftop, especially on such a beautiful summer evening. Not to grouse, but our views of New Jersey have been blocked by the construction of several new apartment towers along 6th Avenue.



Please save **Saturday, February 12, 2011**. My muse and I will be hosting an Art Lovers and Valentines party from **6:00 - 9:00 pm**. In addition to luscious food and drink, you'll be viewing some of my newer paintings.



New York Painter
Cityscapes, Landscapes, Photographs



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