



KENISE BARNES FINE ART

JOANNE MATTERA

STATEMENT

The *Silk Road* Paintings

My painting is chromatically juicy and compositionally reductive. I refer to it only partly tongue in cheek as “lush minimalism.” Each painting in the ongoing Silk Road series is a small color field achieved by layers of translucent wax paint applied at right angles. The series, which I began in 2005, was inspired by the iridescent hues of slubbed silk, hence the title, but very quickly evolved into a more expansive exploration of color. A decade and almost 300 paintings later, I am still enthralled with the exploration.

Silk Road is the most succulent painting I have done. It's also the most reductive. In plying the richness of this paint against the austerity of a (very subtle) grid, I set in motion a small-scale dynamic in which more and less jostle for primacy.

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