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SUSAN ENGLISH

STATEMENT

Porous Light

My work is inspired by light — the way it refracts in the wind on the surface of the Hudson, or is absorbed by the shadow of a building, or slices through venetian blinds. Observations of light in relation to objects and spaces are a pool from which I draw to create colors, atmospheres and surfaces in my abstract work. Landscapes condense into shapes of color for me: when I look at a mountain across the river I see its blue shadow as a separate solid, a discrete entity. I will try to precisely determine what that color is, its density, its timbre and how I would make and evoke this expression of light and mass.

The surface and color in these works is made by pouring layers of tinted polymer on panels. The poured polymer mimics nature: a layer of paint hardens like ice or mud – its thickness and viscosity impacting how the surface dries. The drawing in the paintings: collected areas of paint, cracks and coagulations, is the result of a delicate and flexible relationship between control and accident. I assemble the poured panels into horizontal or vertical sequences to create a narrative of color, space and light. The surfaces range from dull to glossy - either absorbing or reflecting the light, existing always in relationship to the light in the room or the position of the viewer.