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FRANCIS SILLS

STATEMENT

2017 Flora Paintings

The flora paintings consist of flowers and plants from my home garden and serve as compositional arrangements that I paint in situ. Sometimes I augment the found compositions with store bought flowers or take cuttings into my studio for still life arrangements. As different flowers bloom, they provide me with fresh colors and textures to work from.

What attracts me to paint a subject is usually a formal concern, either a color or combination of colors, shapes and patterns, or a light effect. Observed moments slip in and out of clarity...a brush stroke will dissolve into a color shape. Light will create a flickering effect ... marks are buried and others are allowed to show through. I set up and react to the things in front of me. Within a painting session that has a beginning and an end, some passages are clarified while others are covered up and disappear. The painting continuously oscillates between generalizations and clarified forms. Returning to the motif continues like this until it is exhausted, until I can no longer find a relationship of elements which hold my interest. It is then that the painting is finished.