



Light of Day The Language of Landscape

Curated by Karen Wilkin

MARCH 4-APRIL 1, 2022

Westbeth Gallery, 55 Bethune St, New York NY 10014

Light of Day: The Language of Landscape is an exhibition of twelve contemporary artists exploring the possibilities of landscape painting today.

Curated by the distinguished writer and curator Karen Wilkin, *Light of Day* originated in brainstorming sessions among several NYC-based painters in 2017. The group soon grew to include renowned artists Lois Dodd, Albert Kresch and Stanley Lewis. *Light of Day* artists include Temma Bell, William Christine, Diane Drescher, Howard Gladstone, John Goodrich, Elizabeth Higgins, Elizabeth O'Reilly, Tony Serio and Kamilla Talbot.

The long, rich history of western landscape painting is graced by extraordinary works by such masters as Claude Lorrain, Camille Corot and Cézanne, artists who reveled in the light and spaces of the natural world. Today, an aspiring painter may question the value of not only representational painting but even of earnest expression itself. While cognizant of these trends, the *Light of Day* artists seek to re-engage our visual environment and the contradictory forces that have historically animated painting: the vital gestures of the observed world, and the innate energies of lines on a surface and colors on a palette.

The twelve artists have divergent backgrounds and pursue various styles, from brushy expressionism to resolute, geometric realism. But they share the goal of confirming how, even in the twenty-first century, landscape painting remains vital, just as long as land can be made to press up towards sky—and trees to rise, and clouds to loom—with the eloquent powers unique to painting. The challenges daunt, but the love of nature compels, and traditions of painting inspire.

Karen Wilkin will present a Zoom talk, "Nature and Culture: Some Contemporary Landscape Painters" at 7pm, March 14. Please register in advance at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_slGd-H5oQ2KiDEijxX0fqw.

An **opening reception** will be held 2-6pm, March 5. A **catalog** with essay by Karen Wilkin accompanies the exhibition; preview and purchase at www.light-of-day.com.

Gallery hours are 1-6pm, Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, please visit light-of-day.com or contact Diane Drescher at (917)660-0684.

New York-based independent curator and art critic Karen Wilkin is the Contributing Editor for Art for The Hudson Review and a regular contributor to The New Criterion, Art in America and The Wall Street Journal.