

Tim Merrick  
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Statement:

Merrick's work explores the relationship between order and disorder, calm and chaos, lightness and darkness, reason and intuition. The paintings exist in the rift between History and Nature forcing the viewer to live with-in the tension between the two. The work is inspired by faded memories, half understood moods, images and ideas seen out of the corner of one's eye. Using the tools and techniques from his life as an artist and forty years as a carpenter Merrick makes paintings that are both process driven and object oriented. Beginning with full scale templates, Merrick maps out a grid on the canvas using carpenter squares, dividers, and chalk lines. The work has evolved from using a standard traditional grid format found in renaissance art to ordering the painting surface into using circular and arced grids. Merrick applies paint with professional mason trowels and floats, industrial kitchen spatulas, scraping out forms on the paint with putty knives, pushing back the imagery, while pulling out shapes with layers of paint and knocking down and building up texture. As each layer is added the paint catches on the peaks and valleys of the previous layer creating a shallow tactile relief, that evolve into entropic chaos, bring the paint out into real space while adding depth and history to the painting. The work is resolved when it moves from a representational image of an idea out into space becoming an object in and of itself.