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Reaching the Horizon
Joseph Salerno at Julian Scott Memorial Gallery

January 16 - February 16, 2013

Who has not dreamed of reaching the horizon, grasping that edge that allows us to go further and enjoy unimagined wonders. Reason telling us it was fruitless, realizing then, we are there, in that very ridgeline where the mountains meet the sky.

The vistas in Joseph Salerno's paintings are rich in hues of green, ochre and mauve. They document the subtle changes in light that a different moment of the day brings into the panel. A permutable panorama trapped in Salerno's gesture. From rich lands covered with blossoming trees to bare fields that contain only the geometry of the nude trees; every scene softly blends with the sky, completing an impressionist landscape where every stroke displays years of careful observation and documentation.

Charting seasons in the Vermont country side, capturing the skyline light and movement in rich oil coats, giving depth and drama to hazy cumulus, stratus and nacreous cirrus. Working in panels like [David Hockney](#), at a different scale and in Salerno's own abstract way. It is quite difficult to conceive the construction of one panel at a time, where a moment becomes a trace and the trace is a turning point for a new way of creating.



Image: 'Ridgeline 9.26.12', detail

As Mark Awodey pointed in a [review](#) for Furchgott Sourdiffe Gallery back in 2006, Salerno's style is painterliness. Borrowing from the impressionists color techniques, we find a deep purple defining the shadow of an ochre hill and gray blueish traces shaping cottony clouds. Salerno's earthy colors are fluid, thinly rendered washes of raw sienna, cadmium green and violet contrasted with the intensity of Salerno's skies. Using a wonderful palette, he adds texture, successfully capturing a moment in time sublimated by areas of radiant white that make the viewer believe for a moment they can reach the horizon.

All images courtesy of the artist, except for detail images.

Julian Scott Memorial Gallery - [Dibden Center for the Arts](#)
337 College Hill
Johnson, VT 05656

1

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