

Artist Bios:

Paul Balmer was born and raised in South Africa. At seventeen he moved to Australia where he studied Fine Art at the Drawing School in Sydney and Graphic Design at the Sydney Institute of Technology. After university Balmer spent several years working in illustration and advertising. He eventually left commercial art and moved to Europe to pursue his passion for painting. While traveling through England, Italy and France he explored various subject matters, but was always drawn to Neoclassical architecture and sculpture. This exploration led to his first gallery shows in London and Boston featuring large scale Neoclassical paintings. Moving to New York City in 1999 was a turning point in Balmer's career. What started as a journey into traditional academic painting gave way to works of the imagination. His paintings took on a naive and abstracted quality. Paul's work is included in many collections including Delta Airlines, Marriott Hotels Boston, The Queen Mary 2, The Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Yale New Haven Hospital, Bridgeport Hospital and Suffolk University. His work has been shown in galleries around the world. Balmer now lives in New Canaan, CT where he lives with his wife and young children.

Throughout her 35-year career **Julie Langsam** has examined issues of beauty, idealization and the notion of the sublime, as well as the interconnected legacy of stylistic tropes, in work that spans many art forms. Langsam often combines images that reference the romantic sublime of the 19th century and the 20th century's utopian ideals of modernism. She recently finished a short documentary film about the New Jersey landscape and is editing her feature-length film about the U.S. as seen through the lens of the landscape. Solo exhibitions include: Gallery Thomas Jaeckel, Frederieke Taylor Gallery and Michael Steinberg Fine Art in New York City; Maass Gallery at SUNY Purchase; Espai 8 in Barcelona; Reykjavik Art Gallery in Iceland; and Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland. She is the recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award and shown in collections throughout the U.S. and Europe. Langsam is currently Associate Professor at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers and was former Motto Endowed Chair and Head of Painting at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

William Ruller's early exposure to nature's contamination by industrial waste contributes to his perspective on changing landscapes. Born in upstate New York, he observed the devastating effects that dumping leftover dyes from the leather mill had on the local stream. His atmospheric paintings indicate an awareness of the way intrusions can foster cycles of deterioration that can be supported by hope for regrowth. With a BA in painting and ceramics from SUNY, Plattsburg, Ruller moved west and worked in pottery production in Oregon before earning an MFA from Savannah College of Art and Design. Currently he is teaching in Paris and lives in southern France. Ruller's paintings have been featured in *Friend of the Artist Volume 12*, *Whitewall Art*, *New American Paintings Issues 111, 124* and *Studio Visit Magazine Issues 20, 21, 23*. His work is in private collections such as Hyatt Andaz Hotel, Savannah College of Art and Design and Museo Riso.