

UPCOMING SHOW*Up to 15 works on show*

January 2-31, 2009

George Billis Gallery

511 W. 25th Street

New York, NY 10001

(212) 645-2621

• SHOW LOCATION NEW YORK, NY

PHILIP KOCH**Spirit of place**

After nearly 30 years of painting, Philip Koch has found a way to marry his love of abstract art—most notably the paintings of artists like Rothko and Stella—with his first love, the Hudson River School painters like Kensitt, Church, Cole and Gifford. In a style that is purely his own, Koch mixes the love of color from the abstract work with the idea of space from the 19th century landscape painters to come up with these new paintings.

"I used to be an abstract painter so I still have an eye for very intense colors," says Koch. "And I like to combine that with the deep romantic space that I find so attractive in the 19th century American landscape panoramas. They were such marvelous painters back then, especially once you get past the foreground."

Koch finds that much of the

appreciation of this work comes from the way the eye is able to take it all in.

"The modern eye tends to trip over their love of detail in the foreground and middle," says Koch. "But, once you get to the middle and far, it's much easier for the contemporary eye to feel at home in that landscape space."

And, like those early American landscape painters, Koch is also after capturing the sense of place in a scene, the spiritual portrait of a place, rather than providing an exact interpretation of one particular geographic locale.

"My goal with the paintings," says Koch, "is to think of the landscape as a portrait of a certain state of mind more than an actual location. In a lot of cases, it is a state of mind, while other times it can be a state of mind I wish I had, a goal of wholeness and creative spirit wrapped up

in one image. It's like how you want to feel on a good day."

Koch also feels that this new work is a way to more fully explore some of his feelings and more contemporary sensibilities about color. He wanted to free himself from too much direct observation at the same time as well.

"I feel like I'm re-embracing my modernist beginnings," says Koch. "I found that I was getting to conservative with color choices so I started working from black and white drawings to get a fresh start chromatically."

Koch has also developed a good relationship with the owners of Edward Hopper's studio on the outer banks of Cape Cod, Tureau, and paints there quite regularly.

"They allow me to stay there and work there," says Koch. "I've done



DEER ISLE, OIL ON PANEL, 5 X 10"



FULL MOON, OIL ON PANEL, 16 X 20"



ARCADIA II, OIL ON CANVAS, 30 X 40"

12 residencies since 1983, and Hopper is a wonderful inspiration. He is an example of someone who went his own way and that really inspired me to try and find my own way as well, to be stubborn." ●

For a direct link to the
exhibiting gallery go to

www.americanartcollector.com

Price Range Indicator

Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.

	Small	Medium	Large
2009	\$2,500	\$5,000-\$7,000	\$10,000