



ARTS CENTER AT DUCK CREEK

127 Squaw Road / PO Box 590
East Hampton, NY 11937
www.duckcreekarts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 14, 2021

Jennifer Cross: Present Tense

July 24 - August 29, 2021

The Arts Center at Duck Creek is pleased to announce ***Present Tense***, an exhibition of paintings by Jennifer Cross in the Little Gallery at Duck Creek. A reception for the artist will be held on July 24, 5-7pm and the exhibit will be on view Thursday - Monday, 2- 6pm through August 29, 2021.

Present Tense features a body of work that Jennifer Cross began in 2020, and records the artist's state of mind while isolated in the studio during lockdown and in the months following. Propelled by what the artist describes as "a tide of losses and an acute awareness of the present" the works "record my shifting, unmoored state of mind during this time."

Excavated from old sketchbooks and observational drawings of objects in the studio, the images depicted in these works are painted in thinly veiled washes of color. Cross's process has always involved building up, wiping out, adding and subtracting. This play between solidity and fragility, gravity and disintegration, were directly related to the visceral response she had to the flood of news reports and toxic politics surrounding the pandemic.

These contrasts can be seen in the painting, *Coming and Going*, a meditation on regeneration and the cyclical nature of things. The landscape, painted in various shades of blues and yellows, depicts small figures which move across a steep sloping mountain on the left, close to the abyss of calm blue/white sky. Curvilinear lines delicately connect these disparate spaces, their movement signaling a process of transformation.

Landscape 2020, a small oil painting displayed in an open wooden box, includes a single slender tree clinging to the ground in a windswept terrain. The red brown earth and tree are contrasted to an iridescent pastel sky. Barely discernible floating figures populate the painting, and again, movement unites the sky and earth, conveying feelings of melancholy, longing and hope.

Jennifer Cross is a painter living in Springs since the 1980s. She earned her BFA degree from the University of Minnesota and her MFA degree in Painting from Pratt Institute. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums on the East End and in New York City, most recently at MM Fine Arts in Southampton and Tripoli Gallery in Wainscott, NY. She is represented in the collection of Guild Hall Museum and is the recipient of a number of awards, including a Ford Foundation Grant and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Painting.

Contact: Jess Frost, duck@duckcreekarts.org, 631-324-2842