

WILLIAM KOCHER

William Kocher
In the Garden

Lancaster Galleries
September 27 - November 10, 2018

Cover image: detail of *In the Garden*, oil on panel, 6 x 12 inches

More often than not, artists are likely to dread the process of deciding on a show title. I don't push it. A body of work is, and should be, deeply connected to the painter's most inner self. It can be risky exposure to include or reveal personal meaning in the title.

"Recent Works" is a perfectly legitimate default. We came close to using it. Kocher decided on "In the Garden". The painting with the same name is a striking and powerful painting, and from the beginning, a front runner for identifying the show. The paintings are landscapes. We could easily have allowed the title to be meant as literal. I could speak to the painterly qualities, the use of color or the delicate balance of composition pushed to the edge. Brush strokes and paint applied more as a sensation than a representation. I will allow the viewer to discover those qualities through their own eyes.

It is the conversation that started in the studio and continued thru the following days that I want to address. Through it, he shared his most personal thoughts as to why he chose this title. The landscape is where he goes to search for answers. Answers about humanity, about the path we are on, one that he does not see as healthy. Kocher's work in this exhibition was not created to make any particular statement. He does not ask the viewer to side with him. What adds to the power of these paintings (beyond the visual impact) is the knowledge that they are driven by his own need to be where he can look for answers, to admit his own need to step back, to make some sense to our "today". There is an understanding of the landscape, its existence with turmoil, its embracement of contentment without perfection. It is where he goes to bring order to his thoughts. Can we slow down long enough to look at ourselves and change our path? The artist says yes. Thru painting the landscape he hopes to understand it. If he understands it, accepts it for what it is, perhaps it can initiate change, bring order. It is his garden. There is no expectation on his part for you to follow, but by sharing his own conversation with the landscape, we are reminded of an opportunity. An opportunity to slow down, look, re-consider. He would not have had to expose these thoughts. The work stands alone without further explanation. Fortunate for us, he has.

Joyce Graham Heberlein, Gallery Director

"... we got to get ourselves back to the garden" – from the lyrics of Woodstock by Joni Mitchell

One Tree
oil on panel
6 x 12 inches



Whip-poor-will
oil on panel
6 x 12 inches



Cedar Waxwing
oil on panel
6 x 12 inches



In the Garden
oil on panel
6 x 12 inches



Monotype Maine No. 5
black ink on paper
IS: 5 x 5 PS: 7.5 x 11 inches



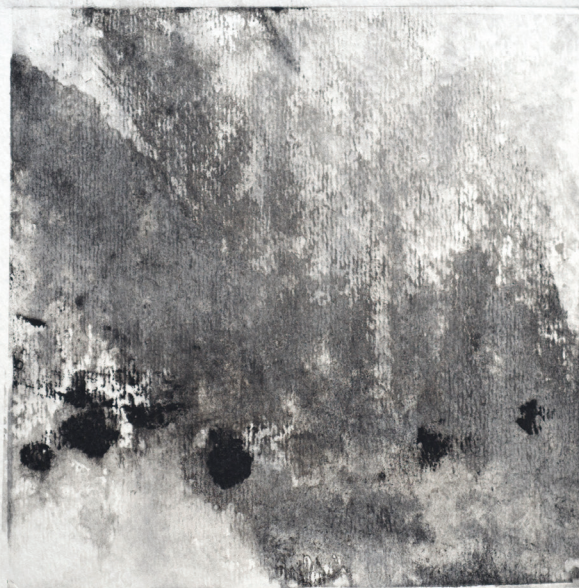
WK 17

Monotype Maine No. 1
black ink on paper
IS: 5 x 5 PS: 7.5 x 11 inches



21-17

Monotype Maine No. 10
black ink on paper
IS: 5 x 5 PS: 7.5 x 11 inches



W-17

Monotype Maine No. 9
black ink on paper
IS: 5 x 5 PS: 7.5 x 11 inches



WKT7

Monotype No. 8
ink and gouache on paper
IS: 5 x 5 PS: 7.5 x 11 inches



Monotype No. 2
ink and gouache on paper
IS: 5 x 5 PS: 7.5 x 11 inches



Monotype No. 1
ink and gouache on paper
IS: 5 x 5 PS: 7.5 x 11 inches



Monotype No. 10
ink and gouache on paper
IS: 5 x 5 PS: 7.5 x 11 inches



Monotype No. 6
ink and gouache on paper
IS: 5 x 5 PS: 7.5 x 11 inches



Shadowboxing
oil on panel
6 x 12 inches



Shade Mountain - Last Light
oil on panel
6 x 12 inches



Cold Front
oil on panel
6 x 12 inches



Founded by Michael and Joyce Heberlein, Lancaster Galleries has been providing the Susquehanna Valley with fine art and services since 1984. We are honored to represent the region's finest artists from the 20th century to present. Our artists and our staff share a mutual respect and commitment to the arts and are dedicated to providing the viewer with quality original work. We invite you to join us.

Curated by Joyce Heberlein, Gallery Director
Catalog design by Nick Mohler

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