

# SUSAN SCHWALB Interior Voyages

Essay by Helaine Posner

### SUSAN SCHWALB: Interior Voyages

Over the past ten years, Susan Schwalb has employed a spare, minimal vocabulary of horizontal lines and bands, drawn across layered fields of color, to create several remarkably resonant and nuanced series of paintings and drawings. In contrast to the cool geometry of conventional Minimalism, the artist's work, based on process and the handmade, evoking nature and natural phenomena, repetition and time, perception and individual experience, suggests a feminist approach to modernism. Though essentially abstract in form, Schwalb's work, small-scaled and intimate, refers to the real world.

The artist claims to "find the work" through the process and materials of its making. She begins by applying three or four layers of acrylic wash to a gessoed wood panel to produce a smooth surface which she breaks by sanding in lines, marks, or incisions, revealing various colors beneath. At various moments she introduces silverpoint, a medium the artist has used for over thirty years but has recently employed in new and unconventional ways. Instead of using a metal stylus to draw a fine, figurative line, in the tradition of such precursors as Albrecht Dürer and Leonardo da Vinci, Schwalb rubs thin pieces of metal across her paintings leaving softly-toned, horizontal bands of silver, or in some cases gold, copper, or bronze, on their surface. The finished work, at once layered and luminous, alludes to the earth's strata, as the title of an

earlier series attests, while appearing to shimmer before our eyes.

Elusive things, such as remembered color and the quality of light, suffuse the artist's paintings and capture a sense of the places she has lived and worked. In Music of Silence IX (2008), Schwalb conveys the cool, grey light of winter in the northeast through silvery tones marked by subtle traces of red. Pale expanses of green and blue repeatedly traversed by horizontal lines may recall moonlight reflected on the ocean near the New England shore in the triptych Incident in the Mist #6 (2007). The sun and heat of the southwest seems to animate the painting 5:05 PM (2008) in which a saturated magenta field is injected with vibrating reds and yellow ochre at the horizon to describe a tremulous twilight. In these works and others, the artist recalls aspects of the natural world in simple, poetic, often sensual terms.

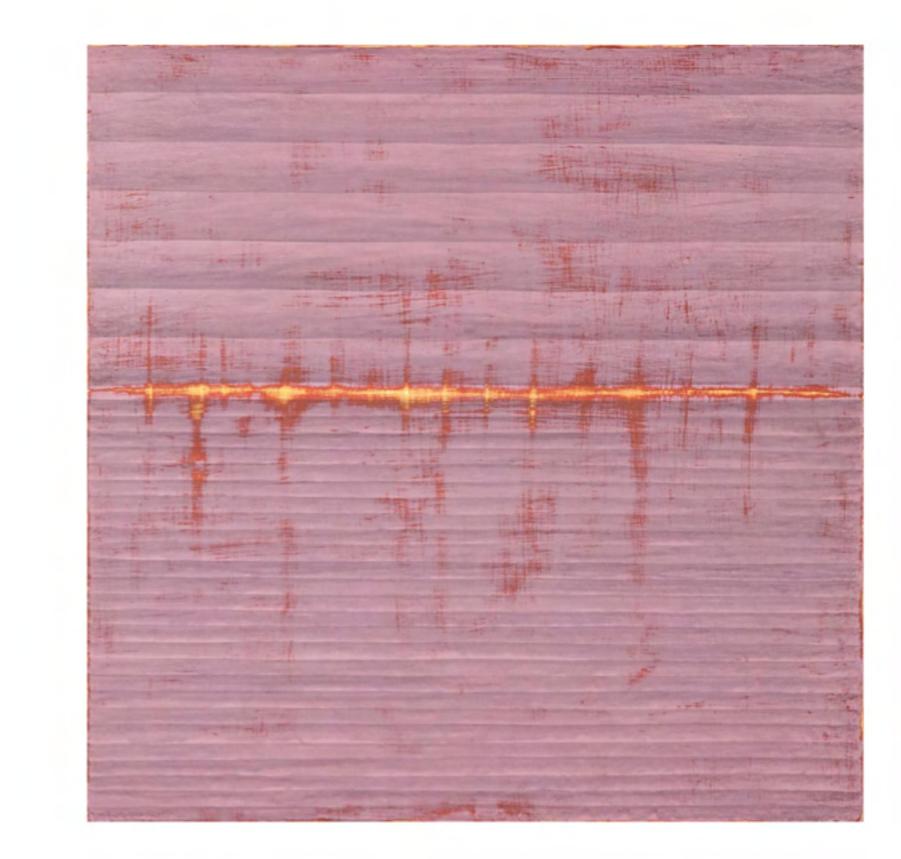
Like the best abstract painting, Schwalb's work transcends technique and materials and aspires to the sublime. It is easy to lose oneself in her contemplative, quietly expressive work, and emerge richer for the experience.

Helaine Posner, New York
Chief Curator and Deputy Director for
Curatorial Affairs at the Neuberger Museum
of Art, Purchase College, State University of
New York.

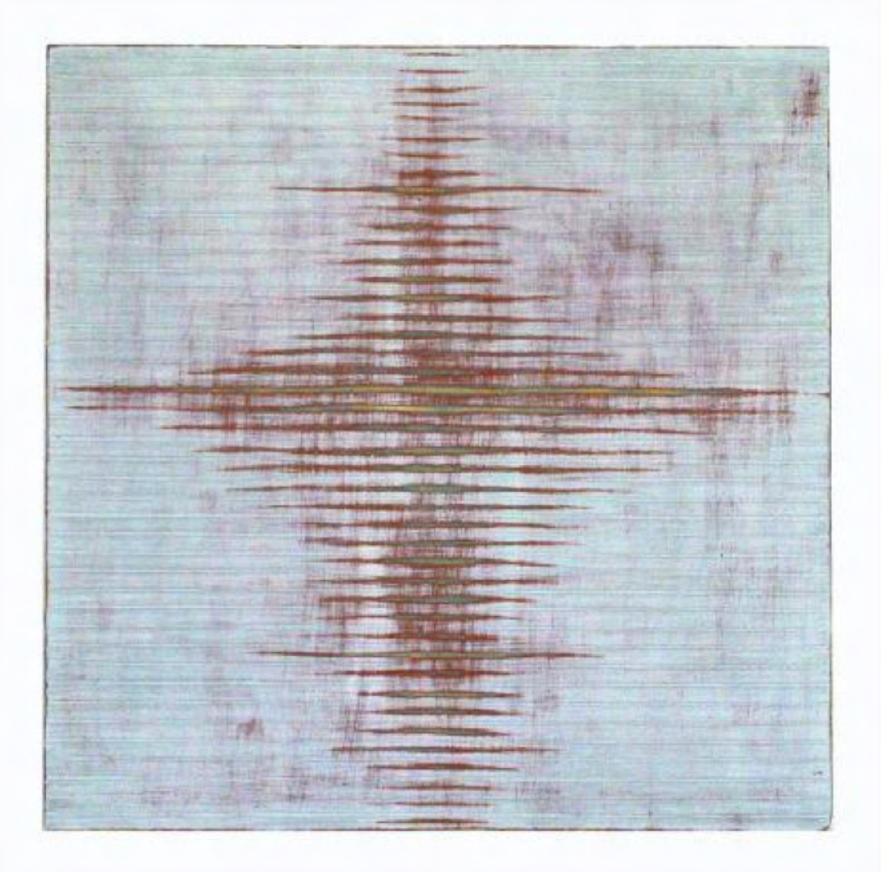


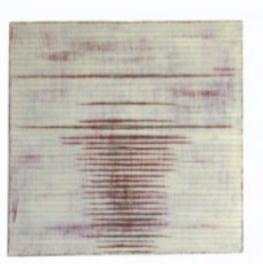


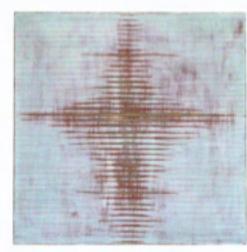
Music of Silence IX 2008 silverpoint, acrylic on wood 24"x 24"x 2"

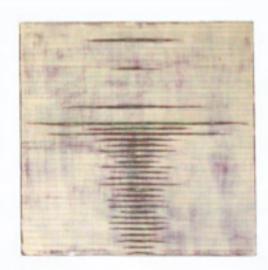


5:05 PM 2008 silverpoint, acrylic on wood 24°x 24°x 2°

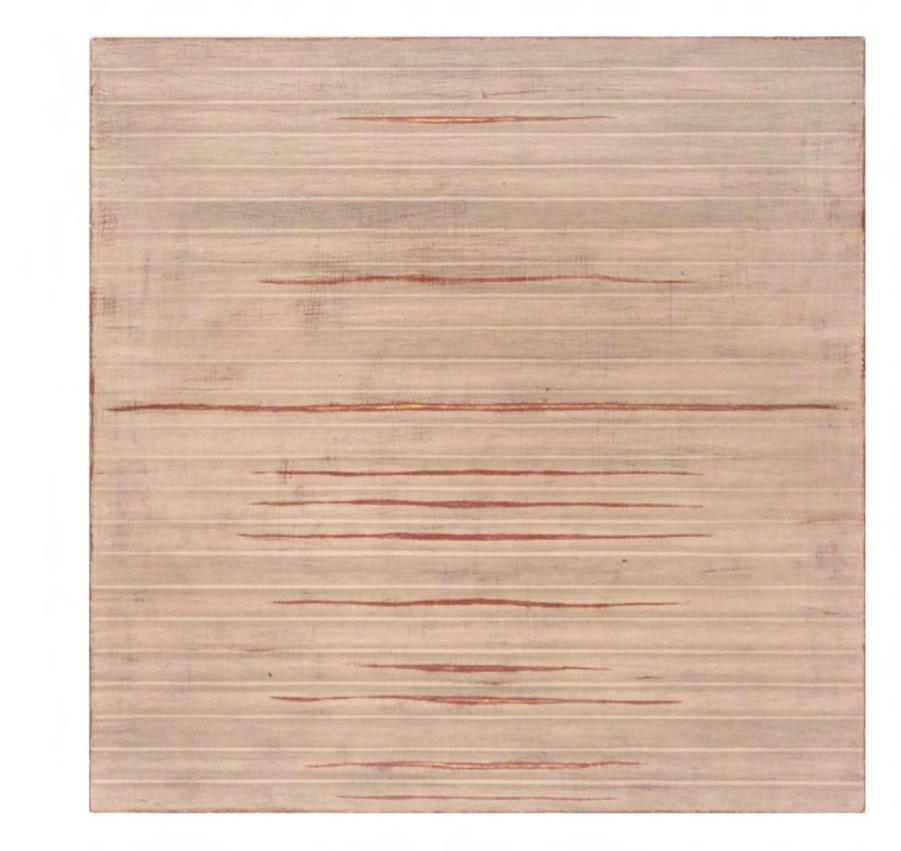




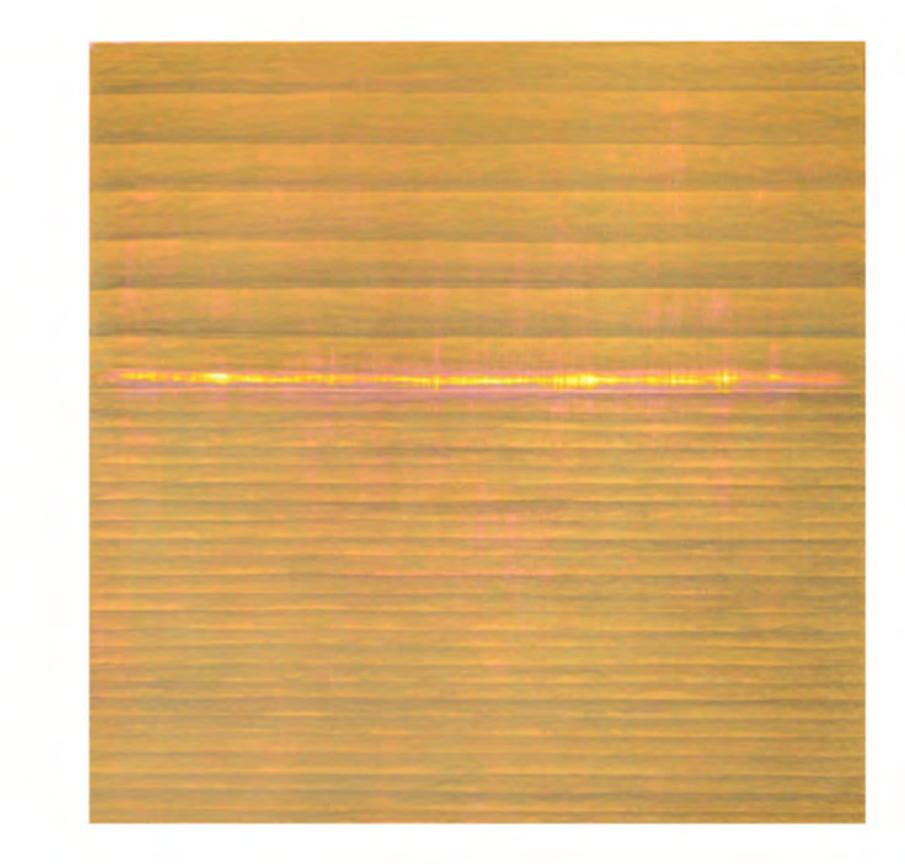




2007 triptych silverpoint, acrylic on wood 16'x 52'x 1.5" Facing page: center panel



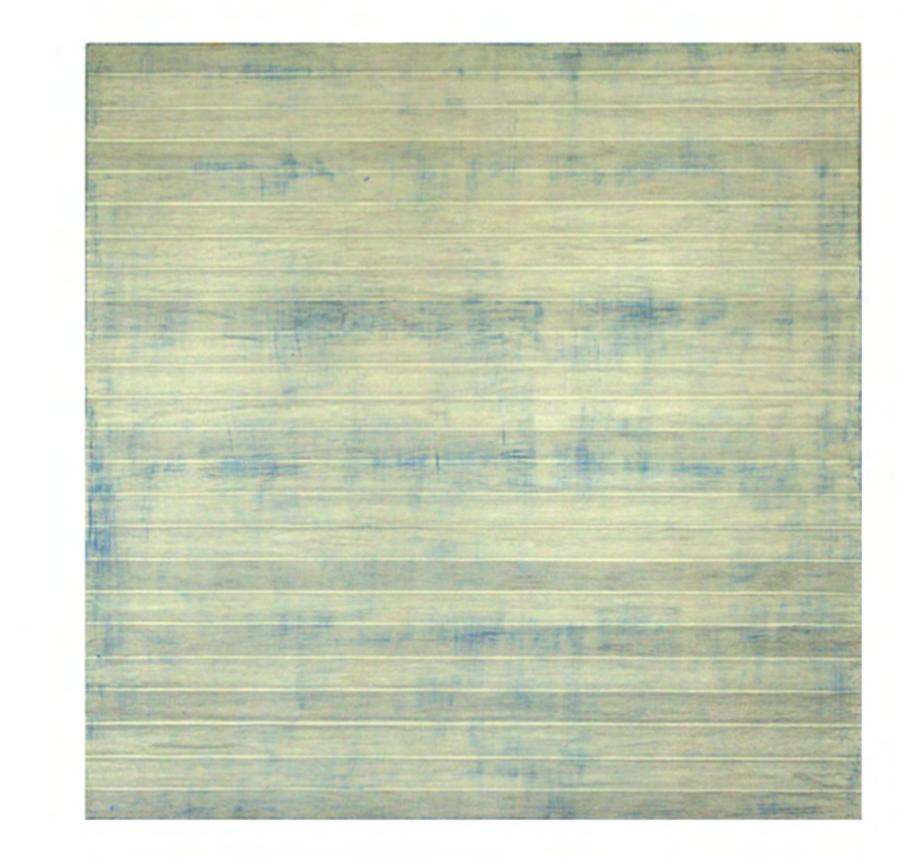
Music of Silence XII
2008 silverpoint, acrylic on wood 24"x 24"x 2"



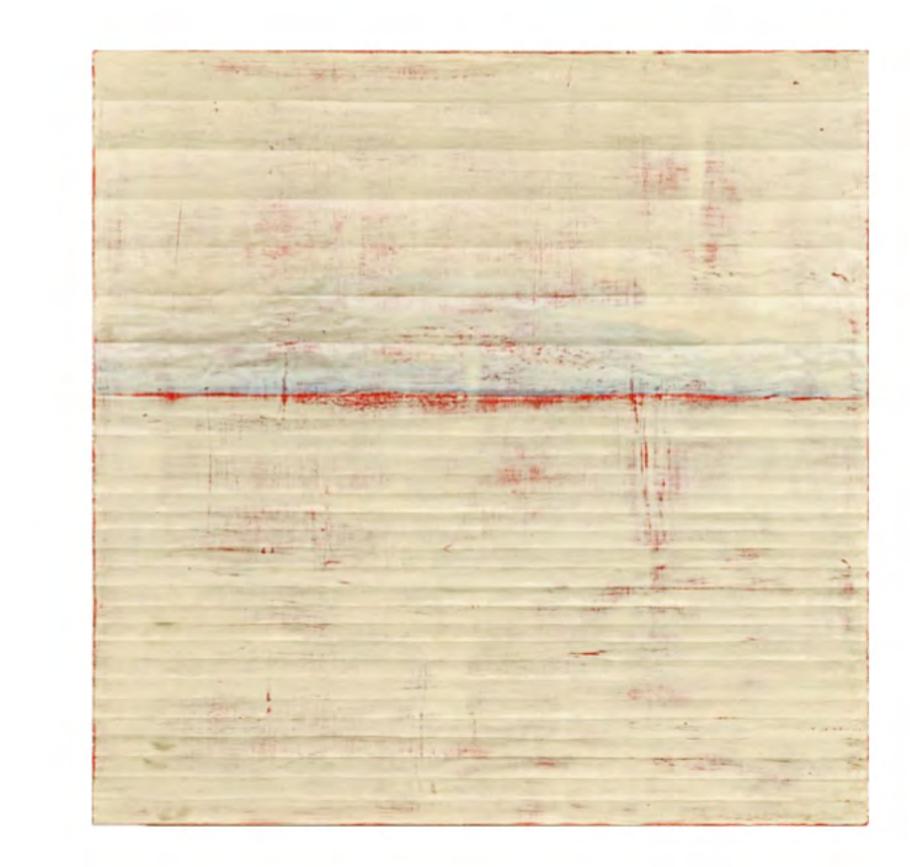
7:05 AM 2007 silverpoint, acrylic on wood 24"x 24"x 2"



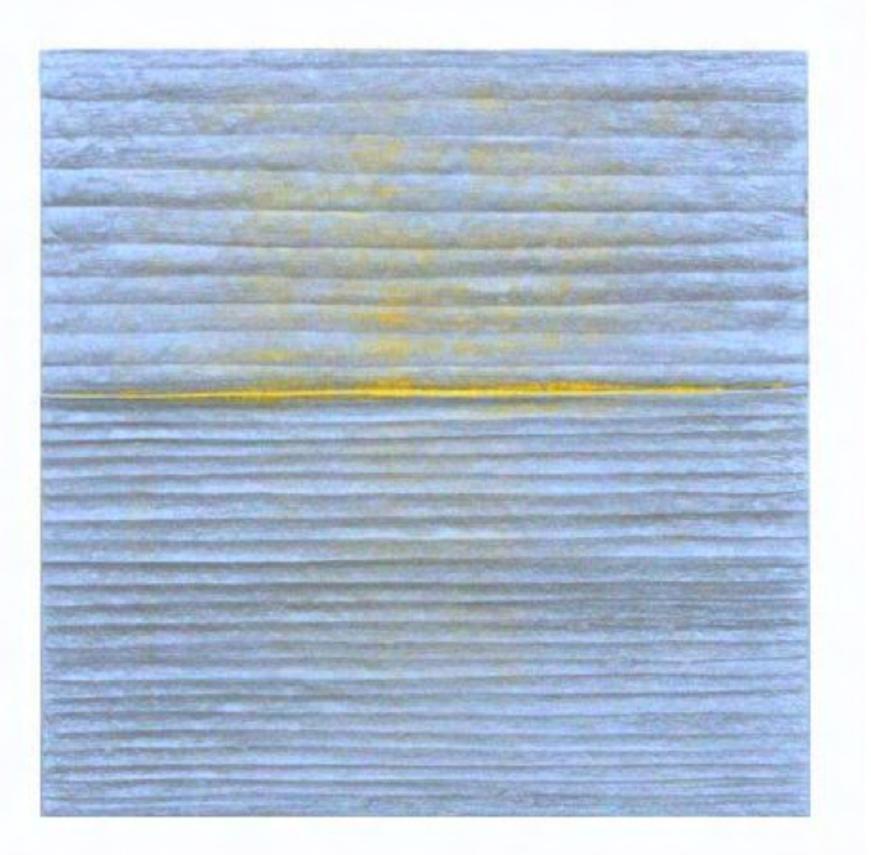
Music of Silence II 2007 silverpoint, acrylic on wood 24"x 24"x 2"



Music of Silence III
2007 silverpoint, acrylic on wood 24"x 24"x 2"

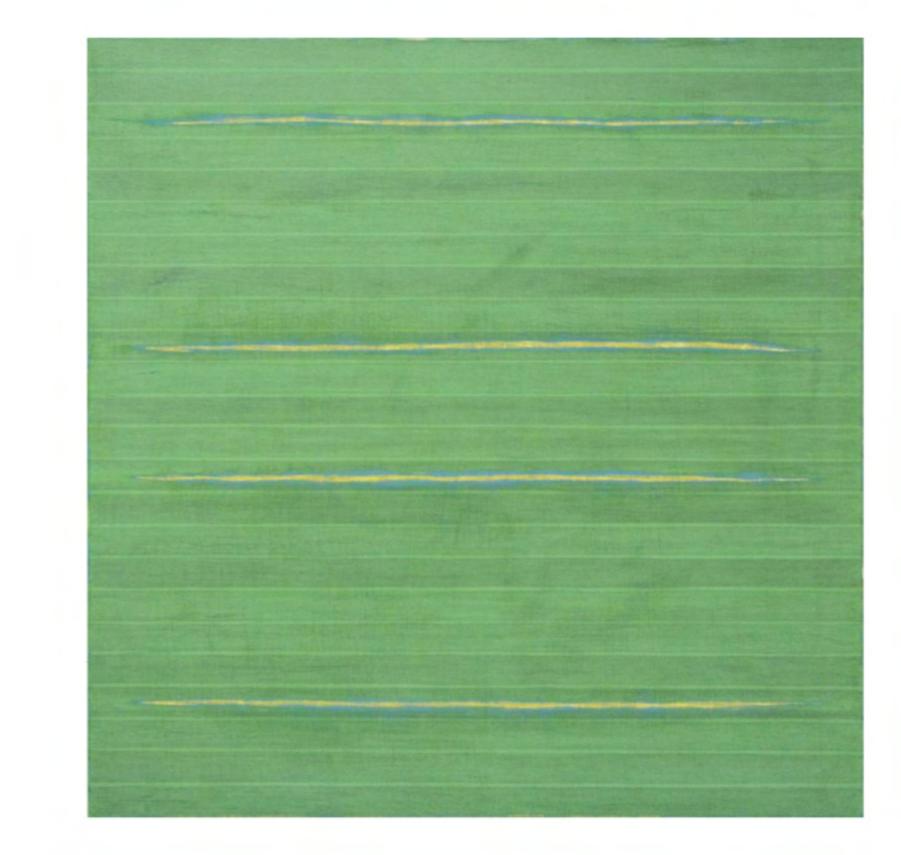


Voyage I 2006 silverpoint, acrylic on wood 24"x 24"x 2"





Horizon Triptych #1 2007 silverpoint, acrylic on wood 8"x 27"x 1.5" Facing page: center panel



Music of Silence VIII
2008 silverpoint, acrylic on wood 24"x 24"x 2"



Music of Silence XI
2008 silverpoint, acrylic on paper on wood 24"x 24"x 2"



Music of Silence X 2008 silverpoint, acrylic on wood 24"x 24"x 2"

## SUSAN SCHWALB

#### **EDUCATION**

BFA Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA High School of Music and Art, New York, NY

# SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2009	Simon Gallery, Morristown, NJ Interior Voyages: Recent Silverpoint Paintings
8002	Galerie Mourlot, NYC Music of Silence: Recent Metalpoint Paintings and Drawings
2006	Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA Metalpoint Paintings
	Winfisky Gallery, Salem State College, Salem, MA Atmospheric Disturbances
	Simon Gallery, Morristown, NJ Atmospheric Disturbances
2005	Solomon Fine Art, Seattle, WA Shards of Memory: Recent Metalpoint Paintings
	Robert Steele Gallery, NYC Drawn in Metal
2004	Cervini Haas Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ Red Mesa
2003	Robert Steele Gallery, NYC Afterimage: Recent Metalpoint Paintings and Drawings
	Simon Gallery, Morristown, NJ Recent Metalpoint Paintings and Drawings
2002	Adair Margo Gallery, El Paso, TX Let There Be Light
	Cervini Haas Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ Palimpsest: Recent Metalpoint Paintings
1002	M.Y. Art Prospects, NYC Palimpsest: Recent Metalpoint Paintings
999	Andrea Marquit Fine Arts, Boston, MA Moments of Resonance: Recent Metalpoint Drawings and Paintings
998	Birke Art Gallery, Marshall University, Huntington, WV Improvisations on Outer Space: Recent Metallic Works on Paper
997	Arthur B. Mazmanian Art Gallery, Framingham State College, Framingham, MA Improvisations on Outer Space Recent Metallic Paintings and Silverpoint Drawings
996	Andrea Marquit Fine Arts, Boston, MA Galaxies & Other Matter: Recent Metallic Paintings
	Watson Gallery, Wheaton College, Norton, MA Intervals: Silverpoint Paintings
994	American Cultural Center, Jerusalem, Israel Silverpoint Drawings
	Andrea Marquit Fine Arts, Boston, MA Intervals: Silverpoint Paintings
992	B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum, Washington, DC The Creation Series
	(tour: May Museum of Judaica, Lawrence, NY; Chase/Freedman Gallery, Greater Hartford JCC,
	West Hartford, CT; Robert I. Kahn Gallery, Congregation Emanu El, Houston, TX)
990	Yeshiva University Museum, NYC The Creation Series: 15 Years of Silverpoint
989	Brad Cooper Gallery, Tampa, FL Silverpoint Drawings
	SOHO 20 Gallery, Invitational Space, NYC Silverpoint Drawings
986	Saint Peter's Church, NYC Large-Scale Silverpoint Drawings
985	SOHO 20 Gallery, Invitational Space, NYC Recent Silverpoint Drawings
	Simmons College, Boston, MA Recent Silverpoint Drawings
983	U.S. Embassy Exhibition Program, sponsored by the United States Information Agency,
	The American Center in Belgrade, Banja Luka, & Skopje, Yugoslavia Silverpoint Drawings 1978-1982
978	Loyola University, Chicago, IL Orchid Series/Silverpoint Drawings
977	Rutgers University, Newark, NJ Orchid Series/Silverpoint Drawings
	Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ Women Artists Series Year 7, Orchid Series/Silverpoint Drawings

GROUP	PEXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)
2009	Simmons College, Boston, MA Some Things the World Gave: Jan Lhormer and Susan Schwalb
	Evansville Museum of Art and Sciences, Evansville, IN Luster of Silver
	Kentler International Drawing Space, Brooklyn, NY Re-Inventing Silverpoint: An Ancient Technique
	for the 21st Century
2008	The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA Artists and Books
	Soprafina Gallery, Boston MA Equilibrium: Susan Schwalb & Nan Tull
	OK Harris Gallery, New York, NY No Chromophobia
	Galerie Mourlot, Los Angeles, CA Winter Group Show
2007	Gráficas Gallery, Tucson, AZ Control/Chance: Susan Schwalb, Valerie Constantino & Rainer Gross
	Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallry, Keene College, NH In Residence: Artists and the MacDowell Colony Experience
	(tour: The Art Gallery, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH)
	G.A.S.P. Gallery Artists Studio Projects, Brookline, MA Abstraction Updated: Deborah Muirhead, Susan Schwalb
	& Suzanne Volmer
	Michele Mosko Fine Art, Denver, CO Red, Black and Red, All Over
2006	Kentler International Drawing Space, Brooklyn, NY Figure/Ground
	Huntington Museum of Art, Huntington, WV Never Done: Works by Women Artists from the Puzzuoli
	Miller Collection
	Solomon Fine Art, Seattle, WA Words to Live By
	District of Columbia Art Center, Washington, DC From Sea to Shining Sea
	Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah, GA The Luster of Silver: Contemporary Metalpoint Drawings
2005	Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA Boundaries: Book Arts Between the Traditional and the Experimental
2004	Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR National Drawing Invitational
	Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham, MA New Faces: New Visions
	The Art Store, Charleston, WV Drawing Invitational
2003	National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC Insomnia: Landscapes of the Night
	Brad Cooper Gallery, Tampa, FL Visions of Passage
2002	Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg, MA A Nation Mourns & Artists Respond
	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX Recent Acquisitions
	Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Larchmont, NY Ordinate/Coordinate
	Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary Works on Paper,
	Part Two: Everywhere but California
2001	Dorsky Gallery, NYC At the Edge: The Horizon Line in Contemporary Art
	Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL Burn: Artists Play with Fire
	Jim Kempner Fine Arts, NYC Minimalennialism
2000	The Rose Art Museum, Waltham, MA Visual Memoirs: Selected Paintings and Drawings
	The Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA A Decade of Collecting: Recent Acquisitions of Prints and Drawings
2000-01	College of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM Jewish Artists: On the Edge
	Hebrew Union College, NYC Living in the Moment: Contemporary Artists Celebrate Jewish Time
1999	Fuller Museum of Art, Brockton, MA Ninth Triennial
1998	Margaret Thatcher Projects, NYC Vibration
	The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC Book As Art

1998	Eich Space, NYC Portfolio Series
1007	Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria Pierogi 2000 NY-Flatfile
1997	The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY Current Undercurrent: Working in Brooklyn
	Wynn Kramarsky Inc., NYC Recent Acquisitions
	Jeffery Coploff Fine Art Ltd., NYC Sizzle and The Art Exchange
	Boston Center for the Arts, Mills Gallery, Boston, MA The Drawing Show
1996	Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR Large Drawings and Objects: Structural Foundations of Clarity
	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 25 Years of Feminism, 25 Years of Women's Art
1994	Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Power, Pleasure, Pain: Contemporary Women Artists and to Female Body
	Suffolk Community College, Selden, NY Contemporary Metalpoint Drawing
1993	Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, Saint Louis University, St Louis, MO Sanctuaries: Recovering the Holy in Contemporary Art
	Yeshiva University Museum, NYC Aishet Hayil—Woman of Valor
1992	Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR Silverpoint Etcetera: Contemporary American Metalpoint Drawings
	Pino Molica Gallery, NYC (tour: Rome, Italy) Europa-America: "360" E-VENTI
1991	Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, NY Drawings
	Andrea Marquit Fine Arts, Boston, MA Viewpoints
1990	Watson Gallery, Wheaton College, Norton, MA Spirituality in Contemporary Art by Women
1989	Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI Drawing: Line or Image
1988	The Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR American Abstract Drawings 1930-1987
1987	Leslie Cecil Gallery, NYC Contemporary Silverpoint Drawing
	Brad Cooper Gallery, Tampa, FL Four Artists
1986	DeCordova and Dana Museum and Park, Lincoln, MA Saints and Sinners: Contemporary Responses to Religion
1985	The Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL The Fine Line: Drawing with Silver in America
	The Woman's Building, Los Angeles, CA Artist as Shaman
1982	The Alternative Museum, NYC Sacred Artifacts, Objects of Devotion
	The Jewish Museum, NYC Jewish Themes/Contemporary American Artists
1981	Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts, Roanoke, VA Virginia Images
	Pratt Manhattan Center, NYC Religion Into Art
1980-83	The Portsmouth Community Arts Center, Portsmouth, VA (Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition) American Drawings III
1980	Columbia College, Columbia, MO National Exhibition Works on/of Paper, Paper in Particular
	Art Colloquium, Salem, MA Five Artists: Process and Product
	Just Above Mid-Town/Downtown Gallery, NYC Outlaw Esthetics
	Rockland Center for the Arts, West Nyack, NY Fire and Water/Paper as Art
	Frank Marino Gallery, NYC Aspects of Fire
1979	Centre Cultural Municipal Jacques Prévert, Villeparisis, France 8 Année Travaux sur Papier Objets
	Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC Drawing Invitational: Six Women
1978	Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA Women Working in Art
	Weatherspoon Art Gallery, University of North Carolina Art on Paper
1975	The Brooklyn Museum, NYC Works on Paper: Women Artists

#### PUBLIC COLLECTIONS (SELECTED)

Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, England Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, La Jolla, CA B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum, Washington, DC The British Museum, London, England The Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY Boston Public Library, Boston, MA Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham, MA The Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel The Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel Kupferstichkabinett - Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Germany The Library of Congress, Washington, DC Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN Museum of Art/Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis, MO Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas The Museum of Modern Art, Belgrade, Serbia The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), New York, NY The National Gallery of Art, Washington DC The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC The Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL The Old Jail Art Center, Albany, TX The Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA Telfair Art Museum, Savannah, GA Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England Weatherspoon Art Gallery, University of North Carolina at Greensboro Wesleyan University, Davison Art Center, Middletown, CT West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT Yeshiva University Museum, New York, NY

#### **CORPORATE COLLECTIONS (SELECTED)**

The Art Hotel, New York, NY Beth Israel Hospital, Boston, MA Bromberg & Sunstein, Boston, MA Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, NY C.S.C. Index, Chicago, IL

Crown Plaza Ravinia Hotel, Atlanta, GA
Fidelity Investments, Boston, MA
Independence Investments Associates, Inc., Boston, MA
The Liberty Hotel, Boston, MA
Mass. Association of Community Development Corp. (MACDC), Boston, MA
Mckee Nelson LLP, New York, NY
Mount Auburn Hospital, Cambridge, MA
Office Environments of New England, Boston, MA
Pfizer Inc., New York, NY
PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP, Florham Park, NJ
The Ritz-Carlton, Boston Commons, Boston, MA
Robinson & McElwee PLLC, Charleston, WV
Sonesta International Hotels Corp., Boston, MA
West Bay Lagoon Hotel, Doha, Qatar

#### FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

2007,'92,'73 The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Sweet Briar, VA
1994 Artist-in-Residence, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, Jerusalem, Israel
Artist-in Residence, Tel Aviv Artists' Studios, Tel Aviv, Israel
1989,'85,'77 Exhibitions Grant, Committee for the Visual Arts, Inc.— Artists Space, New York, NY
1989,'75,'74 The MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, NH
1981 Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, NY
1980 International Communications Agency Travel Grant, Copenhagen, Denmark

BIBLIOGRAPHY (SELECTED) Bard, Elin A. Drawings at Benson, Dan's Papers, 6/14/91 Beck-Friedman, Tova Susan Schwalb, Drawn in Metal, The New York Art World 11/05 Breslow, Stephen Four Women Artists: Thompson/Schwalb/Pachner/Hirt, Atlanta Art Papers, March/April '88 Broude, Norma and Garrard, Mary (ed), "The Power of Feminist Art: The American Movement of the 1970s, History and Impact," Harry Abrams, 1994 Cohen, Joyce Galaxies and Other Matter and Intervals, Art New England, August/September '96 Dreishpoon, Douglas The Fine Line: Drawing with Silver, Arts Magazine, 9/85 Earley, Sandra Art: The Siren Song of Silverpoint, The Wall Street Journal, 9/11/85 Eshoo, Amy 560 Broadway- A New York Drawing Collection at Work, 1991-2006, Yale University Press, 2007 Faxon, Alicia Susan Schwalb: Moments of Resonance, Art New England, June/July '99 Faxon, Alicia Drawing: Line or Image, New Art Examiner, 1/90 Faxon, Alicia and Moore, Sylvia Pilgrims and Pioneers: New England Women in the Arts, Midmarch Art's Books, '87 Franklin, Valerie Drawing Invitational: Six Women, The Arts Journal, 11/7 Glueck, Grace Imagery from the Jewish Consciousness, The New York Times, 6/6/82 Gregoricus, Jason Female Artists Hang at the Fogg, Cambridge Chronicle, 12/9/93 Harrison, Helen A. Contemporary Metalpoint Drawings, The New York Times, 4/3/94 Heller, Jules and Nancy G. American Women Artists of the Twentieth Century, Garland Publishing Co., '95

Hightower, Marvin The Female Body as Seen by Its Inhabitants, Harvard Gazette, 4/15/94 Horowitz, Stash Arts Alive: World Series, Back Bay Courant, 4/30/96 Katz, Sonia Susan Schwalb, The New Art Examiner, 11/78 Kohen, Helen L. Silverpoint Makes for Golden Exhibit, The Miami Herald, 4/21/85 Kurtis, Arlene Norton Mounts First Exhibit of Silverpoint Art, Palm Beach Jewish World, 3/29/85 Langdon, Ann The Creation Series, Art New England, December '92 / January '93 Langer, Cassandra The Creation Series: 15 Years of Silverpoint, Women Artists News, Fall '90 Lubell, Ellen Pocket Art, SOHO News, 12/28/78 Marter, Joan Susan Schwalb, Womanart, Winter '77-'78 Marxer, Donna Illuminations, Women Artists News, Fall '89 Mathews-Berenson, Margaret The Light Touch, American Artist Drawing, Spring, '04 McQuaid, Cate Public Eyes; Light Grids; Gallery on the MBTA, The Boston Globe, 3/4/99 McQuaid, Cate Natural Deceptions; Rejoicing Stars, The Boston Globe, 5/2/96 Miller, Lynn and Swenson, Sally Lives and Works, Talks with Women Artists, Scarecrow Press, '81 Moore, Sylvia Evocative Images at NYC's Fordham University, Women Artists News, 5/80 Orenstein, Gloria Feman Evocative Images, Arts Magazine, 5/80 Orenstein, Gloria Feman The Reflowering of the Goddess, The Athene Series, Pergamon Press, '90 Orenstein, Gloria Feman Vision and Visibility: Contemporary Jewish Women Artists Visualize the Invisible, Femspec, Vol.4 Issue 2, Lexington Press, '04 Ronnen, Meir Something Out Of Nothing, The Jerusalem Post, 4/29/94 Russell, Gloria Subtlety of Silverpoint, The Sunday Republican, 1/12/86 Schwendenwien, Jude From Religious Symbols to Detailed Abstractions, The Hartford Courant, 10/25/92 Soltes, Ori Z. Fixing the World: Jewish American Painters in the Twentieth Century, Brandeis University Press/University Press of New England, 2003 Soltes, Ori Z., Heilige Zeichen, Parthas Verlag, Berlin, Germany 2007 Stapen, Nancy Exploring Feminine Identity, The Boston Herald, 2/8/87 Taylor, Robert 'Saints and Sinners' Compelling, The Boston Globe, 12/7/86 Temin, Christine Drawing with a Loose Definition at the BCA, The Boston Globe, 12/6/97 Temin, Christine Cosmic Topics Land in Framingham, The Boston Globe, 9/11/97 Temin, Christine Our Art, Ourselves-Provocative Show Explores the Ways Women See Women, The Boston Globe, 3/30/94 Temin, Christine Silverpoint's Delicate Power, The Boston Globe, 11/14/85 Tufts, Eleanor American Women Artists, Past, and Present, A Selected Bibliography Guide Garland Publishing Company, 1984 VanKleeck, Richard Art in Asheville, Fine Exhibit at WCU, Asheville Citizen Times, 12/1/79 Walentini, Joseph Susan Schwalb, Abstract Art Online Vol. VI, No. 3 (www.abartonline.com), 12/4/03

Watkins, Eileen Tweed Show Revives 'The Spiritual in Art,' The Star-Ledger, 12/10/82

Wolff, Theodore F. Jewish Images of the '70s in American Art, The Christian Science Monitor, 6/21/82

Waterman, Jill Delicate Understandings, ArtsMedia, 6/15-7/15/00

Politika Express, Belgrade 8/5/83 "Inflammable" Drawings by Susan Schwalb

Zimmer, William Aspects of Fire, SOHO News, 11/5/80



This catalogue has been published on the occasion of the exhibition "Interior Voyages," silverpoint paintings by Susan Schwalb, at Simon Gallery, Morristown, NJ, March 17 - April 18, 2009

> Photographs by Susan Byrne & Jacklyn Boyland Design by Jacklyn Boyland

> > Facing Page: Susan Schwalb in her studio Photo by James Arzente

For more information on the artist: http://www.susanschwalb.com

Cover image: "Music of Silence IX" (detail) 2008, silverpoint, acrylic on wood 24" x 24" x 2"