

For Immediate Release

**Robert Stuart**

***Torn Lines***

November 4 – December 23, 2011

Opening Reception for the Artist  
Friday, November 4, 2011  
7 – 9 pm



Robert Stuart, *Blue & Rust*, 2011, Oil and wax on canvas, 50 x 36 inches

Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of an exhibition of paintings by Robert Stuart entitled *Torn Lines*. The exhibition opens with a reception for the artist on Friday, November 4 and continues through December 23, 2011.

Robert Stuart's paintings are meditative abstractions in which bands of light and color create a tension that allows the paintings to reverberate with great energy. Stuart layers oil paint and wax on canvas to develop rich and complex surfaces on each painting, and color is carefully built over time. He is, in the most simple of terms, a painter of light, and his paintings seem to have an innate glow emanating from within. Stuart's paintings are radiant, and in changing ambient light, the bands of color activate, vibrate, and push out from the canvas. Stuart's paintings have a quality of substantive simplicity that mirrors encountering unexpected, ephemeral beauty.

Stuart is inspired by both natural and man-made sources: beams of sunlight through a cracked door are as significant as Japanese Zen temples and Dan Flavin's neon sculptures. In essence, Stuart is always studying and recreating nature in its immaterial form – light. Stuart states, "Nature is an inspiration for these paintings, perhaps even the goal – to be like nature, to exist, to just be there [ . . . ] Then there is nature encroaching on the man-made: a silvery barn roof, with streaks of reddish-orange rust spreading out from the vertical seams. There is also light illuminating the sky, light making its streaks and patterns, its spots, its sharpness, its diffusion." Experiencing Stuart's work is not unlike glancing toward the sky at exactly the right moment to experience a fleeting second of brilliant color. The paintings are evanescent yet substantive, and the physicality of the painting is incidental to the essential endeavor of representing light in a true and reverential manner.

# R E Y N O L D S   G A L L E R Y

Robert Stuart lives and works in Staunton, Virginia. He received his BFA from Boston University School for the Arts and his MFA from James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Stuart is the recipient of awards and honors including an Academy Award in Art from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York; a residency from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Sweet Briar, Virginia; and a Museum Purchase Award from the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC. Stuart's work has been exhibited widely at the American Academy of Arts and Letters and Art Prospects, both, New York; Mary Baldwin College and Staunton Augusta Art Center, both, Staunton, Virginia; Washington and Lee University DuPont Gallery, Lexington, VA; Woodbury Art Museum, Orem, UT; JB Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY; Virginia Historical Society and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia. His work is in the collections of the Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC; Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga, TN; Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA; Woodbury Art Museum, Orem, UT; Eleanor D. Wilson Museum, Hollins University, Hollins, VA; Bank of America and General Electric, Charlotte, NC; The Martin Agency, Markel Corporation, McGuire Woods, Medical College of Virginia, Philip Morris, and University of Richmond, all, Richmond, Virginia.

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Please contact Bev Reynolds or Julia Monroe at Reynolds Gallery with questions:

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