

R E Y N O L D S G A L L E R Y

For Immediate Release

ROBERT STUART

Radiance

November 7 – December 24, 2014

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



Aquarian Dreams, 2014
Oil and wax on canvas, 56 x 112 inches

Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of an exhibition of new paintings by Robert Stuart entitled *Radiance*. The exhibition opens with a reception for the artist on Friday, November 7 and continues through December 24, 2014. This exhibition marks the artist's ninth solo exhibition at Reynolds Gallery since 1992.

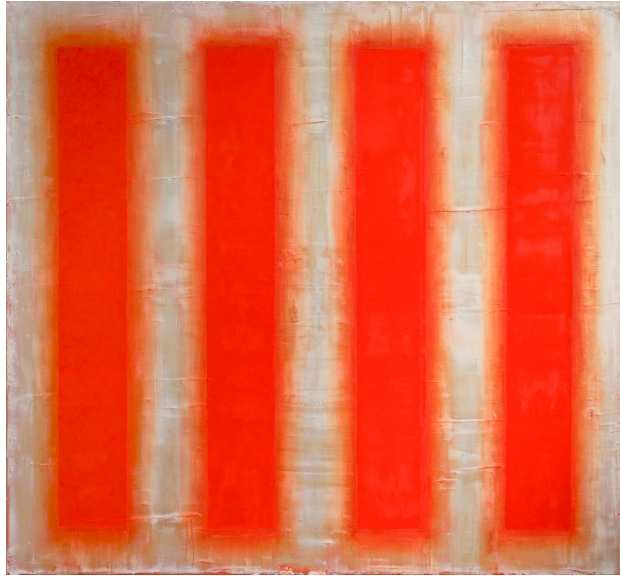
Robert Stuart began his artistic career as a representational painter. He painted the landscape of western Virginia with its hills and barns, and he painted serenely modern still-life paintings of glass bottles. In all of these early works, his central interest was the behavior of light on surfaces – the edge of a barn roof or the glint of light coming through colored glass. Over the years, these edges of light became more and more important, and after a trip to Japan where Stuart was inspired by Zen gardens and temples, the bands of light fully became the non-objective subject of his paintings. Stuart shifted his style dramatically from representation to full abstraction in 1997, and he has worked to bring a sense of illumination into paintings every since.

Stuart explores the mysterious qualities of light in his paintings through carefully building rich layers of oil and wax. He pushes his paintings to seemingly glow though juxtaposing satin-like and inky bands of color against subtly iridescent grounds. Stuart connects his interest in light to his early years as a landscape painter, explaining that light is nature in its immaterial form. He states, "light has been a primary concern of painters throughout history. Light illuminating the sky, light making its streaks and patterns, its spots, its sharpness, its diffusion. Allowing us to see. Giving us surprises, unexpected encounters." Stuart is inspired by both natural and man-made sources in that beams of sunlight through a cracked barn door are as important as Dan Flavin's neon sculptures. Stuart's paintings hum with atmosphere and evanescence yet they are also weighted by their clear compositions and the materiality of paint and wax.

Robert Stuart lives and works in Staunton, Virginia. He received his BFA from Boston University School for the Arts in 1977 and his MFA from James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia in 1984. Stuart has received numerous 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

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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.



Desert Sun, 2014, oil and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 78 inches

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