



GAIL MORRIS

Earthly Elements

After moving from her Sausalito, California, studio to one near Jack London Square and the Port of Oakland, artist Gail Morris was inspired to create a series based on her new environment. The works she has continued to create for her aptly titled *Jack London Series* will be exhibited at Bonner David Galleries from March 15 through April 8.

"At first I missed the rolling hills of Marin, but one day the wide streets and old warehouses and railroad tracks inspired me to look at the city as landscape," she says, "so I started doing pastel sketches on location and then studio paintings based on my new surroundings."

For its 2018-19 show season, the Scottsdale, Arizona, gallery has asked its artists to create pieces that pay homage to another artist. Morris selected Wolf Kahn, who she studied with in New York City. He also inspired her "to go from my California landscape tonalism into more expressive and exuberant landscape painting," she says. "Now I've taken it one step



1

1
Blue Moon,
oil, 36 x 36"

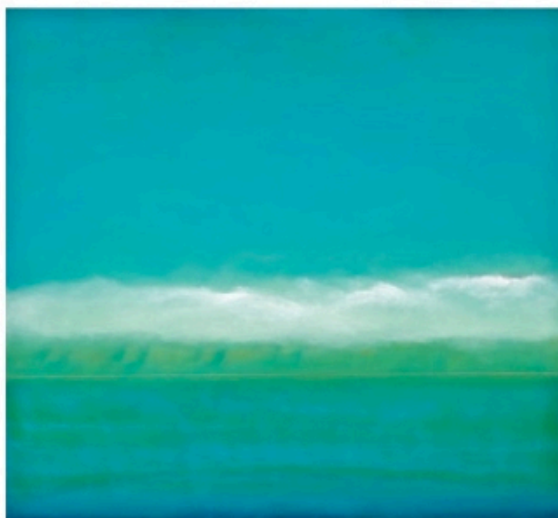
2
Leading Edge,
oil, 24 x 24"

3
East to West,
oil, 30 x 30"

4
Burning Daylight,
oil, 30 x 30"



2



3



4

further and have completely distilled these portside and aerial landscapes into lines and color. I am really exploring symmetry, geometric compositions and spatial relationships, while having so much fun with new colors that I haven't used before."

What Morris has been enjoying most about this new style is that each painting shows its progression. The work contains her initial drawings peering through as "ghostly tracks visible beneath the surface" and highlights the building up of color as she adds more geometry. "I think that is what is exciting, the more time one looks at the painting, the more there is to see within it," Morris explains. "Right now I am very much about working from balance to imbalance, creating tension

and then resolving it in order to create a sense of equilibrium and tranquility in the final painting."

All of the works in the show, while appearing to be abstract, are based on actual locations; for instance, *Blue Moon* and *East to West* are of rural areas. They all are marked by her signature method of stacking elements so there is no vanishing point. This technique even has inspired Morris' new book *Elements of Earth* that will be available at the gallery during the show. The book, featuring 45 color plates, covers the past decade of Morris' art as she developed from traditional landscapes to her new works. ●

Bonner David Galleries
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"Gail Morris distills the essence of landscapes with beauty and clarity and a deceptive simplicity. In both her impressionistic and abstract paintings, she displays an assured command of color and craft, creating compelling images that are both distinctive and indelible."

— Jim M. Kennedy, senior vice president of business strategy and chief legal counsel, Pixar Animation Studios