

CYNTHIA-REEVES

RAY RUSECKAS
New Pastels



JANUARY 16 - MARCH 5

The Barn at 28 Main St, Walpole, NH
Artist Reception January 16, 6-8pm

RAY RUSECKAS

New Pastels

January 1, 2015

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"Ruseckas manipulates pastels like no other artist. His surfaces retain only a vestige of the dry, velvety softness we usually associated with the medium. He achieves a more painterly, liquid pooling of colors both subtle and rich. Deep earth tones melt into gossamer tints, and he deploys a seemingly infinite range of blacks and whites." -- Mara Williams, Chief Curator, Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro, VT

Ray Ruseckas' work is marked by a certain sense of mystery: he is sensitive to the nuances of the changing light and thus tonal shifts of the landscape under the quixotic New England skies, and has great respect for the what the land has to offer: its depth of color, the texture of the fields, the mass of tree branches, the weight of the sky, the volume of the landscape itself. These elements cohere to create a strong sense of 'witnessing' the landscape, of participating in the landscape.... an unusual and generous experience for the viewer.

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ABOUT THE ARTIST



Ray's artwork is a most authentic representation of the landscape here in the Connecticut River Valley. The impress of New England has virtually worked its way into his bones. Living here for the majority of his life, interrupted only by a brief hiatus in Hawaii and the Philippines, has made this countryside part of his inner language. Most people associate this part of the world with brilliant autumn foliage or the explosion of greens in the spring, and they wait for those seasons with great anticipation. For Ray, the quieter urgings of pending rain, the swath of a textural cloudscape, the mood of these old, rounded mountains when the weather is turning — these are the subtler and gentler and more mysterious moments in the landscape that most attract his eye.

Underneath the somber hues of a landscape on the brink of turning from autumn to winter, you find the vestiges of a vibrant season that preceded it. The richness of green fields as they come alive in May is still there later on, morphed into the dusky wheat of a dry August. The trees carry the secret of their fall colors well hidden the majority of the year, but the tones are all there, bringing in concert the depth of their coloration to their final expression before falling off: faded brick red, terra cotta, sun bleached yellow. The tree trunks become stone gray, their branches and twigs stiffening. So it is as the spring tumbles into summer: a million greens hum across the swath of the hillsides for mere seconds, really, before settling down into the business of being alive. The greens quiet down. And yet, all of the colors are there, a beautiful conspiracy to manifest the deepest, most tender ochre, dove gray, gray blue, blue slate, slate green, green gray. These are the color relationships he so successfully expresses in his work.

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Path to the West, 2016, pastel on paper, 32 x 33 in (81.2 x 83.8 cm)

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Down by Boggy Meadow, 2016, pastel on paper, 17 x 52in (43 x 132cm)

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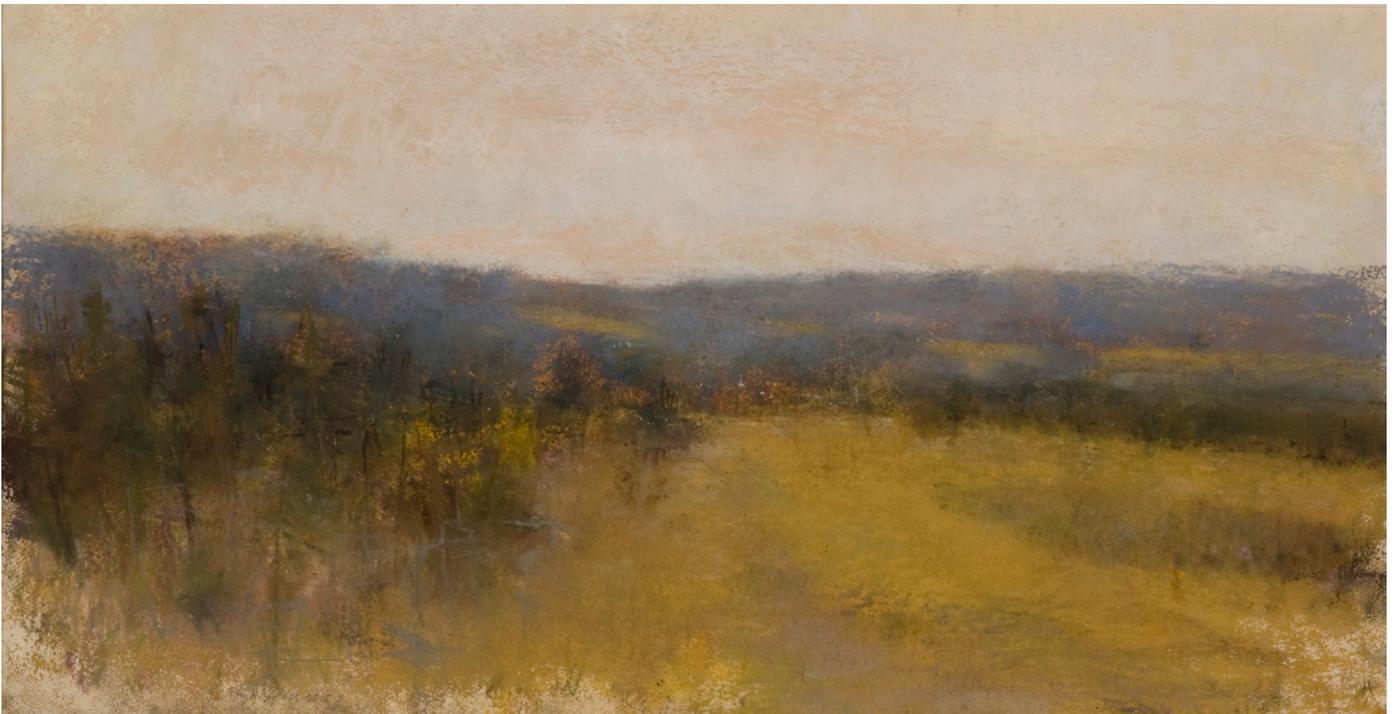
Slippery Slope, 2016, pastel on paper, 32 x 33 in (81.2 x 83.8 cm)

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Succession of Fields, 2015, pastel on paper, 24 ½ x 55 ½ in (62.23 x 140.97 cm)

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Ray Ruseckas, Hazy Golden, 2015, pastel on paper, 16 x 31 in (40.64 x 78.74 cm)

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Competition for Light, 2016, pastel on paper, 15 x 22 in (28 x 55.8 cm)

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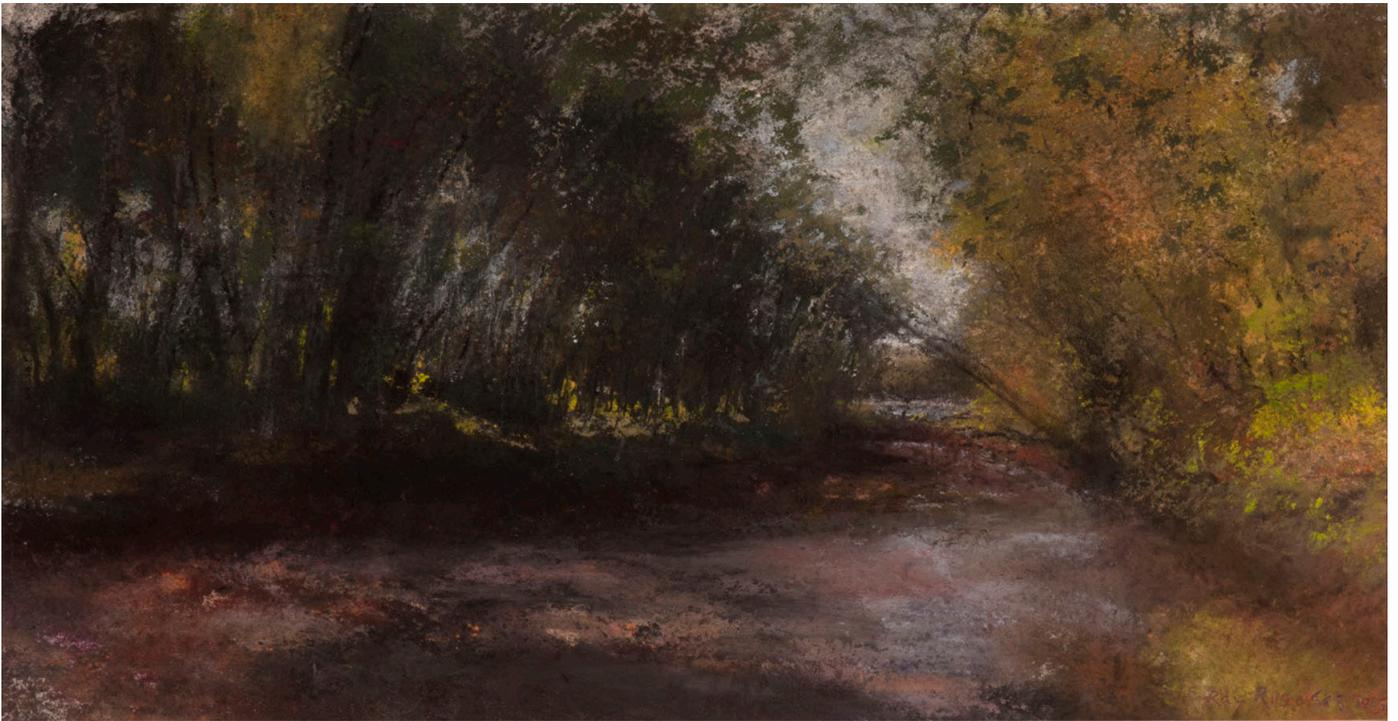
Up Marlboro Way, 2016, pastel on paper, 16.5 x 52 in (41.9 x 132 cm)

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Along the Connecticut, 2016, pastel on paper, 30 x 40 in (72.2 x 101.6 cm)

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Great Brook Tributary, 2015, pastel on paper, 8 x 15 in (20.3 x 38 cm)

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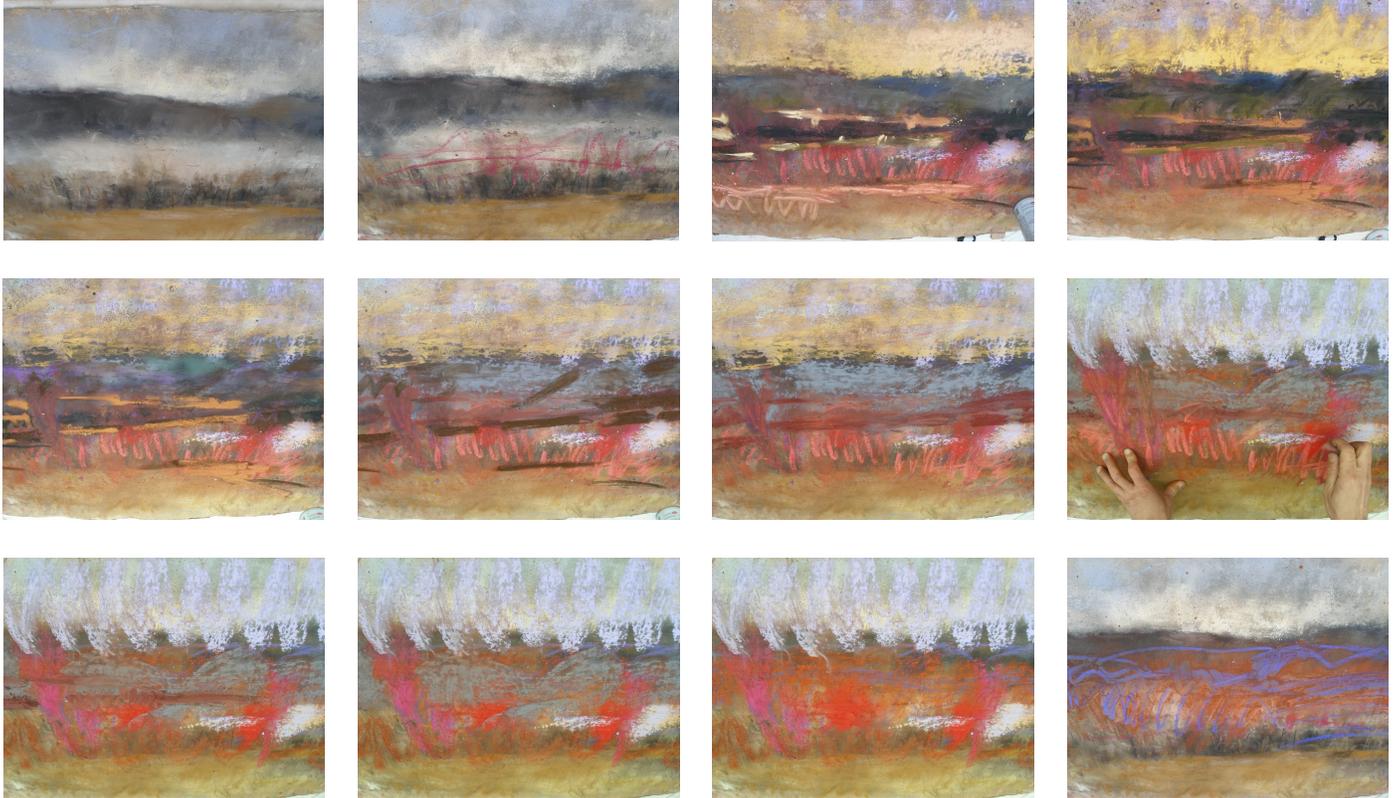


Thurber's Hill (triptych center panel), 2015, pastel on paper, 10 x 35 in (25.4 x 88.9 cm)

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Ray Ruseckas, (The making of a pastel)

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For more information
please call 212.714.0044 or email info@cynthia-reeves.com
CYNTHIA-REEVES.COM