



# Grays of a Different Kind - Works by Three Painters

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by Pat Rogers

There is beauty in the sublime—especially when it’s inspired by monochromatic paintings channeling subdued energy. This is the type of work currently exhibited at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts in Bridgehampton, NY.

Installed against pristine white walls are paintings rendered in shades of grays made by Annie Wildey, Eric Blum and Dan Gualdoni. If calm proves elusive in the bustle of a Hampton’s July, then paintings by this trio might provide an antidote to the frenzied pace.



“Coastal Redux #56” by Dan Gualdoni, 2010. Mixed media on board, 20 x 20 inches.

“Eric Blum, Dan Gualdoni, and Annie Wildey: New Paintings” opened on July 17 and remains on view through Aug 2, 2012 at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts in Bridgehampton, NY. The paintings can conjure memories, awaken emotions or encourage contemplation.

The contrast against the deluge of activity is only one reason why Kathryn Markel decided to mount this show. Presenting works that focus on a neutral pallet is a distinct departure from the gallery’s typically line-up.

Markel enjoys presenting art with bright colors that vibrate with energy. This show channels energy of the quieter kind. The works conjure motion stemming from the emotional, psychological or the physicality of the sea.



“Ocean 0577” by Annie Wildey, 2012. Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 inches.

While all are workings with monochromatic pallets, their intent is not shared.

“The agenda is different for each of them but the kinship is something that is apparent,” said Markel.

**ANNIE WILDEY** explores the characteristics of water. She applied paint as sea foam rises from careening waters, said Markel. The outcome appears delicate and random but there’s force and purpose behind it. For Wildey, form follows function and wrestles between control and freedom.

Wildey’s brush strokes imbibe the work with texture. They can surprise at their intricacy upon close examination. Energy and motion are key elements in her compositions.

Wildey states that she “enjoys working at the combative edge where paint seems to want to push out into chaotic abstraction, but the image pulls back against that force towards representation,” according to an exhibition release.



“Ocean 0372” by Annie Wildey, 2012. Oil on canvas, 18 x 18 inches.



“Ocean 0379” by Annie Wildey, 2012. Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 inches.

**ERIC BLUM**’s work is psychological in nature. His compositions are “glancey,” said Markel. The paintings channel the sensation of seeing something from the corner of the eye that proves elusive when seeking it.

The ambiguity of what’s real, what’s imagined and what may be wanted is the space Blum seeks in his work.

Blum’s paintings contain implied shapes couched in an abstract world. His methodology contributes to the sense of layered ambiguity—transparent materials such as beeswax, silk and resin are used to create his art.

“The shapes are evocative of what’s real and not real,” said Markel. “With Blum, everything turns out to be something else.”



“No. 613” by Eric Blum, 2011. Ink, beeswax, and silk on panel, 22 x 56 inches.



“No. 609” by Eric Blum, 2011. Ink, beeswax, and silk on panel, 22 x 56 inches. .

**DAN GUALDONI**'s art is all about light, said Markel. The surface of his paintings hold the light but also channel it. His paintings are made from layers of glue that refract light and cast a nostalgic glow to his imagined landscapes.

Gualdoni favors layers of printer's ink which contributes to the sense that something old-fashioned and solid is present. The combination of the printer's ink and polymer glue, which are sanded and layered, are reminiscent of old photographs rather than contemporary paintings.

Endless skies and understated land stretching beyond the horizon are what draws Gualdoni.

Romanticism also plays a part in his work, said Markel. Like the other two painters, Gualdoni's work is more complex than an initial look may reveal.

“The light in these paintings creates an indefinite, almost primordial space softened with mist that coincides with our own uncertain perception of environment and our place in it,” states Markel.



“Coastal Redux #57” by Dan Gualdoni, 2010. Mixed media on board, 20 x 20 inches.



“Coastal Redux #84” by Dan Gualdoni, 2011. Oil, printer's ink, glue medium on panel, 19 x 19 inches.



“Coastal Redux #83” by Dan Gualdoni, 2011. Oil, printer's ink, glue medium on panel 19 x 19 inches.

**BASIC FACTS:** “Eric Blum, Dan Gualdoni, and Annie Wildey: New Paintings” remains on view through Aug 2, 2012 at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts in Bridgehampton. The gallery is located 2418

Montauk Hwy, Bridgehampton, NY.

A second gallery is located in Chelsea at 529 W 20th Street, Suite 6W, New York, NY. [www.markelfinearts.com](http://www.markelfinearts.com).

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