

**Joe Novak**  
**Artist's Statement**

**"Colors"**

"Colors", a series of 350 paintings on panel, 5 by 7 inches each, continues my long journey as a painter into explorations of color and light in an abstract idiom. This project has been my labor of love for the past three years, and is in sharp contrast scale wise with the very large canvases of earlier decades.

It has been my goal to achieve in these pieces similar effects as in my large paintings. Here, however, size has given me the freedom to be more varied in the use of form, while still remaining within the bounds of a cohesive body of work.

There is an intended duality in this series. In groupings, these panels convey a sense of multiplicity and interaction of colors. As the viewer focuses on individual pieces, each painting becomes its own world of color, light and form.

Through this body of work I have experienced once again how the creative force in the universe works in totally supportive ways.

During the eighties and nineties, my paintings on canvas were large in scale with the focus on color and light. In 2000 I turned to smaller works, concentrating on drawings, monotypes, small paintings and mixed media assemblages. I also became active as a print maker, focusing mostly on multi-plate color aquatint etchings, utilizing the facilities of Crown Point Press in San Francisco and Hand Graphics in Santa Fe.

In late 2005 I moved from Santa Fe to the Palm Springs area of Southern California, downsizing to a much smaller studio than I had previously been accustomed to. My new challenge was how to make this new space work so as to continue my color explorations in a meaningful way.

Experimenting with painting on a few 5x7 inch panels, I found that I liked working on this small scale, and I bought more panels. The notion of doing a large series of these paintings didn't occur to me right away, but as I continued to work and place the pieces in groupings on a studio table, I realized that a meaningful body of work had found me. Indeed an apparent limitation had been turned into an exciting new adventure that was to last for years.

In connection with the Colors series, I wish to acknowledge Bert Green, owner and director of Bert Green Fine Art in Los Angeles, who has believed in me and supported my work for many years; my partner, Willie Lebron, who has contributed so much to my well being and my career; Peter Frank, the art critic, for his sensitive appreciation of my work; Taylor Sherrill, who photographed each of the 350 pieces with consummate skill and patience; David Edington, my framer in Santa Fe for his creative involvement in the mounting of the Colors panels; Steven Nash, Director of the Palm Springs Art Museum, for his encouraging and positive comments along the way; and my local artist friends — Zoe Ann Fischer, Russell Bennett, Kent Pachuta, and Timothy Hearsom — who have been enthusiastic spectators as this body of work has progressed. I thank them all.

# Joe Novak

## Resumé

### **Public Collections**

Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts  
California Pacific Medical Center Foundation, San Francisco, California  
Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Frost Art Museum, Florida International University, Miami, Florida  
Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York  
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire  
Museum of Art, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida  
Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
New Mexico State Capitol Art Foundation, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, California  
Republic National Bank of New York, New York City  
Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, California  
St. Vincent Hospital Foundation, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Springfield Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, Massachusetts  
Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, Arizona  
UC Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, California  
University of New Mexico Foundation – Health Sciences Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
University of Texas - Pan American, Edinburg, Texas

### **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

#### **2008**

Bert Green Fine Art, Los Angeles, California

#### **2006**

Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Palm Desert, California

#### **2005**

Bert Green Fine Art, Los Angeles, California

#### **2004**

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Etherton Gallery, Tucson, Arizona

#### **2003**

Circle Elephant Art, Los Angeles, California

#### **2002**

"Joe Novak: Paintings, 1993-1999," Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

#### **2001**

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Circle Elephant Art, Los Angeles, California

#### **1998**

McKesson Plaza, San Francisco, California

#### **1997**

Davidson & Daughters Contemporary Art, Portland, Maine

#### **1996**

The Bank of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico

#### **1995**

Olaf Clasen Gallery, Cologne, Germany  
Santa Fe Council for the Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico – “ Light Emanations” installation

**1989**

Milari, Ltd., New York, New York

**1988**

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

**1987**

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

**1985**

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**2007**

“Recent Acquisitions”, Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, Arizona

**2006**

“Mergers & Acquisitions”, Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Palm Springs Art Museum Juried Exhibition (V. J. Jacobs Abstract Award), Palm Springs, California

“NonObjectivity”, Pharmaka Gallery, Los Angeles, California

Farrell Fischhoff Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

**2005**

Eagle Gallery, London, England

**2004**

"Contemporary Works on Paper from the Collection", Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Jill George Gallery, London, England

Bert Green Fine Art, Los Angeles, California

“Site Unseen 3”, James Kelly Contemporary, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Lew Allen Contemporary, Santa Fe, New Mexico

**2003**

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

"New Mexico Printmakers, " Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, New Mexico

**2002**

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Circle Elephant Art, Los Angeles, California

**2001**

Anderson Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

**2000**

Anderson Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Circle Elephant Art, Los Angeles, California

Lew Allen Contemporary, Santa Fe, New Mexico

**1999**

Lew Allen Contemporary, Santa Fe, New Mexico

**1998**

Davidson & Daughters Contemporary Art, Portland, Maine

**1995**

Davidson & Daughters Contemporary Art, Portland, Maine

**1991**

“Anonymous Bosch” Invitational Exhibition, Santa Fe, New Mexico

**1990**

Milari, Ltd., New York, New York

Springs Annual Invitational Exhibition, East Hampton, New York

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

**1989**

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

**1988**

Springs Annual Invitational Exhibition, East Hampton, New York

**1987**

"New Faces/New Spaces" Invitational Exhibition, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York

Benton Gallery, Southampton, New York

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

**1985**

Springs Annual Invitational Exhibition, East Hampton, New York

**1984**

30th Juried Exhibition, Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York

### **SELECTED CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Peter Frank, "Art Pick of the Week", *Los Angeles Weekly*, November 18-24, 2005

Christopher Knight, "Possibilities at play in fields of color", *Los Angeles Times*, September 30, 2005

Dottie Indyke, "Joe Novak", *Art News*, February 2005

Margaret Regan, "Variations on Light & Site", *Tucson Weekly*, February 26, 2004

Mokha Laget, "Pyro: Burned, Melted, Smoked", *THE Magazine*, December, 2003

Jan Adlmann, "Joe Novak: Paintings 1993-2002", *THE Magazine*, October, 2002

Lynne Cline, "Excursion into color and light", *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, August 9, 2002

Phyllis Braff, "Joe Novak: Paintings, 1993-1999", exhibition catalogue, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, May, 2002

Jane Hart, "Meditative Art Soothes the Soul", *Art Business News*, February, 2001

Denise Kusel, "Artist channels meditation chapel", *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, July 28, 2000

Dennis Jarrett, "True Colors", *Santa Fe Reporter*, July 28, 1999

Bob Graham, Arts Editor, Datebook, "Joe Novak: Color & Light", *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 22, 1998

Emily Van Cleve, "Key to Joe Novak's Painting", *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, June 7, 1996

Philip Isaacson, "Works by Joe Novak", *Portland Telegram*, December 17, 1995

Diane Armitage, "Joe Novak, Light Emanations", *THE Magazine*, October, 1995

Daniel Vaillancourt, "Light Emanations", *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, August 11, 1995

Gussie Fauntleroy, "Time and movement add dimension to Novak's art", *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, July 15, 1994

Dean Balsamo, "Novak gets back to the light with his 'Light Emanations' ", *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, July 31, 1992

David Staton, "Inter-Dimensional Art: Paintings Come To Life Through Lighting, Music", *Albuquerque Journal*, July 26, 1992

Simone Ellis, *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, May 10, 1991

Rose C.S. Slivka, "From the Studio", *The East Hampton Star*, March 22, 1990, March 30, 1989, June 16, 1988, March 31, 1988, October 22, 1987, July 16, 1987

Robert Long, "Guild Hall Picks 9 Painters, 3 Sculptors", *The Southampton Press*, July 30, 1987

Phyllis Braff, "Guild Hall Features New Faces", *The New York Times*, July 26, 1987

Helen A. Harrison and Rae Ferren, "New Spaces /New Faces", exhibition catalogue, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York, 1987

Robert Long, "40 Area Artists Start Season at Vered", *The Southampton Press*, April 30, 1987

Robert Long, "Three at Vered", *The East Hampton Star*, May 9, 1985

Helen A. Harrison, "Winners in Parrish Biennial", *The New York Times*, December 28, 1984

Phyllis Braff, "From the Studio", *The East Hampton Star*, October 4, 1984

**EDUCATION**

The New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture, New York, New York

New York University, New York, New York, Intaglio print workshop

Parsons School of Design, New York, New York, Studio art courses

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, J.D.

Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, B.A