
CANDITA CLAYTON

GALLERY

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Time Flies
Oil on Canvas
50 x 54 in.
2020
\$10,000

Michael Rich

Born in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Michael Rich grew up surrounded by the waters of New England, living on the South Shore of Massachusetts and spending each Summer on Nantucket Island. With an interest in architecture, Michael set off for the Rhode Island School of Design, only to discover painting. After college, Michael returned year-round to Nantucket to paint, while honing his craft as a carpenter. Finding a supportive community of artists on the Island and an endlessly inspiring landscape to draw from, Rich's work shifted from portraiture to expressive studies of the natural world. Beginning graduate studies and later travels to Italy heightened an awareness of the opposing elements of a landscape's serenity and nature's tenacity. Abstraction in painting, as first studied in the galleries and museums of Europe, became a mode of working and exploration for Michael that continues today. In his paintings, drawings and prints Rich investigates the natural rhythms of nature's harmony and irascibility through opacity and translucency of color. Rich completed his graduate work in Painting at the Savannah College of Art and Design, where he also taught for a number of years. Returning to Rhode Island in 2000, Michael Rich now lives and works in Providence, RI and Nantucket, MA and is a Professor of Art at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. A dedicated practitioner of yoga, Rich is influenced greatly by Eastern philosophy and art in an approach to nature and landscape as a wellspring for spiritual investigation and meditation.

Recent featured museum exhibitions include The Bristol Art Museum, Bristol, RI (2014); The Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI (2008) and the Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville Arkansas (2007). Rich is the 1996 recipient of the Basil H. Alkazzi Award (USA) was included in Sotheby's auction series, International Young Art 2000. His work is featured in private and public collections nationally including, The Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, LA and the Springfield Museum of Art, Springfield, OH.