



BRIAN RUTENBERG

Born 1965, South Carolina, Lives and paints in New York, NY

Artist Statement

“There is no finer way to practice kindness towards oneself than through the contemplative reverie, luxurious beauty and strange incantatory spell that only art can cast.” —Brian Rutenberg

Inspired by the woods and waters of the Lowcountry and vacation colors of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Brian Rutenberg’s landscape paintings are a place where nature and artifice collide in the bright and combustible—two places he says gave him a love of excess. To ground his abstract vision, vertical marks represent trees, horizontal ovals depict ponds, and slabs of jewel-toned paint sit easily beside pale washes.

Rutenberg wants the viewer to read his paintings from left to right, as if wandering through the woods versus any fixed vantage point. For him, painting is a rhythmic process, and a successful painting keeps our gaze in perpetual renewal. He offers this example of how it works: when we look through a window on a rainy day, we either see the raindrops on the glass or what lies beyond, but not both views at once. With patience, we begin to take in the whole.

Whereas the paintings are the most obvious aspect of Rutenberg’s creativity, they lay the foundation for what transpires when we take time to contemplate an object outside of ourselves. Rutenberg believes this process causes the artist’s and viewer’s nervous systems to twist around, creating what he calls “the third thing.” He also believes that art is a form of empathy and the ability to extend oneself to that which is outside of oneself will save the world. That’s a wonderful idea to hold onto in these difficult times.

In a turbulent time when the art world is increasingly focused on status, luxury, and investment, Rutenberg’s paintings are a reminder that art is ultimately about aesthetic pleasure and intrinsic qualities. By following their own instinctive taste, eye, and intelligence, those who value this belief bind themselves to the rich history of art and its ongoing appreciation.

Education

- 1989 MFA, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
1987 BFA, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 TEW Galleries, Atlanta, GA
Banners of the Coast, LewAllen Galleries, Santa Fe, NM
Banners of the Coast, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
- 2022 Salon Style, TEW Galleries, Atlanta, GA
Brian Rutenberg, Hampton III Gallery, Taylors, SC
Banners of the Coast, Cotuit Center for the Arts, Cotuit, MA
Deeps of Peace, Forum Gallery, NY, NY
- 2021 Hinson Art Museum, Wingate University, Monroe, NC
Point of Pine, Jerald Mehlburg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
Pine, Palm and River, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Birmingham, MI
Reeds Rise, LewAllen Galleries, Santa Fe, NM
- 2020 The Pond, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019 Brian Rutenberg: Lake, LewAllen Galleries, Santa Fe, NM
- 2018 Top of the Hill: New Paintings, Heather Gaudio Fine Art, New Canaan, CT
Thunderhead, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
Looming Pine, Nancy Toomey Fine Art, San Francisco, CA
- 2017 Lowcountry: New Paintings, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
Clear Seeing Place: The Encapsulating Canvases of Brian Rutenberg, Saginaw Art Museum, Saginaw, MI
LewAllen Galleries, Santa Fe, NM
Hoyt Art Center, New Castle, PA
Tew Galleries, Atlanta, GA
- 2016 Clear Seeing Place, Bannister Gallery, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI
Scallop Pond, New Paintings, Peter Marcelle Project, Southampton, NY
- 2015 TEW Galleries, Atlanta, GA
- 2014 Saltwater, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
Paintings by Brian Rutenberg, Cotuit Center for the Arts, Cotuit, MA
- 2012 River, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 TEW Galleries, Atlanta, GA
Brian Rutenberg: Paintings and Drawings, Franklin G. Burroughs - Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum, Myrtle Beach, SC
I Will Tell You A Place: Paintings by Brian Rutenberg, The Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, GA
Low Dense, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009 Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
TEW Galleries, Atlanta, GA
- 2008 Palmetto, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Hickory Museum of Art, Hickory, NC,
Galerie Timothy Tew, Atlanta, GA

- 2006 Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC
Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
David Lusk Gallery, Memphis, TN
- 2005 Carolina, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
- 2004 Cress Gallery of Art, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, TN
Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, CA
- 2003 John Raimondi Gallery, Vitale, Caturano & Co., Boston, MA
Recent Landscape Paintings, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
- 2002 Algonquin, Forum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Tippy-Stern Fine Art, Charleston, SC
Artists to Artists, The Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2001 A Ten-Year Survey, Butler Institute of American Art, Warren, OH
Hidell-Brooks Gallery, Charlotte, NC
- 2000 Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
Tippy-Stern Fine Art, Charleston, SC
Schmidt-Dean Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Hidell-Brooks Gallery, Charlotte, NC
- 1998 Burroughs-Chapin Museum of Art, Myrtle Beach, SC
University of South Carolina-Beaufort, SC
Fine Arts Center of Camden County, Camden, SC
Wells Gallery, Charleston, SC
- 1997 Schmidt/Dean Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 1996 Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Halsey Gallery, College of Charleston, SC
National Library of Canada, Glenn Gould Exhibition Website, Ottawa
- 1995 Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC
- 1994 David Klein Gallery, Birmingham, MI
Fridholm Gallery, Asheville, NC
- 1993 Stephen Wirtz Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Greenville County Museum of Art, Greenville, SC
Fridholm Gallery, Asheville, NC
- 1992 Fridholm Gallery, Asheville, NC
- 1989 Francis Marion College Art Gallery, Florence, SC

Group Exhibitions

- 2022-23 Quarter Past: Highlights from our Collection, Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 2022 The Modern Landscape, Danville Village Theatre Art Gallery, Danville, CA

Alice Ballard and Brian Rutenberg, Myrtle Beach Art Museum, Myrtle Beach Art Museum, Myrtle Beach, SC
 2021 Drawing Inspiration, Forum Gallery, NY, NY
 In Vivid Color: Pushing the Boundaries of Perception in Contemporary Art, Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC
 2020 First Impressions: New Works and New Acquisitions, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 2019 Person to Person, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 Bordering on Abstraction, Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum, Myrtle Beach, SC
 Linden Frederick & Seven Contemporary Guest Artists, Haynes Galleries, Franklin, TN
 Natural History, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 2018 Long Island Painters, MM Fine Art Advisory & Appraisals, Southampton, NY
 2018 Augusta Collects Southern Art, Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, GA
 2017-18 Artists by Artists: The Artist as Subject, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 2017-18 Eclipsing 50, Artists from the South Carolina Arts Commission Collection, 1967-2017, South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC
 Favorite Things: A Holiday Exhibition, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 2017 Forum Gallery Celebrates 55 Years of Modern and Contemporary Art, Forum Gallery, NY, NY
 Greenville County Museum of Art, Greenville, SC
 92nd St. Y Art Center, New York, NY
 American Views, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 20/21 VISIONARY ARTISTS OF THE 21ST CENTURY, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 2015 Nature Unbound, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 Timothy Tew Gallery, Atlanta, GA
 2014 46th Collector's Show and Sale, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR
 2013 Singular Vision, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 W.O.P, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 45th Annual Collector's Show & Sale, Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR
 Rebekah Jacob Gallery, Charleston, SC
 Room with a View, Selections from the Permanent Collection, Burroughs- Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
 Dark Eye Glances: Romantic Impulse in Landscape, Stedman Gallery at Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts, Camden, NJ
 2012 Five Decades: Art and Artists of Forum Gallery: 1962-2012, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, AL
 State Museum of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
 43rd Collectors Show & Sale, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR Vantage Point
 Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 Private Beauty, Martin County Courthouse Cultural Center, Stuart, FL
 2010 Contemporary Paintings, Drawings & Sculpture: A Summer Selection, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
 Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 TEW Galleries, Atlanta, GA
 2009 Summer Selections, Forum Gallery, New York, NY

South Carolina Selections: Ideas Distanced from Objects, Greenville County Museum of Art, Greenville, SC
 Abstraction in the South, Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, GA
 25/25, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
 2008 New Acquisitions, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 2007 The Contemporary Landscapes Show, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 TEW Galleries, Atlanta, GA
 2006 Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art, National Academy Museum, New York, NY
 Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
 Eva Carter Gallery, Charleston, SC
 Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 75th Anniversary Exhibition, Weill Art Gallery, 92nd Street Y, New York, NY
 2005 John Raimondi Gallery, Boston, MA
 Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
 Burroughs-Chapin Museum of Art, Myrtle Beach, SC
 Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
 Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
 2004 Transamerica Corporation Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
 Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
 Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 Springfield Museum of Art, Springfield, OH
 Burroughs-Chapin Museum of Art, Myrtle Beach, SC
 Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
 Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz, CA
 Terra Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 2003 Ace Gallery, New York, NY
 Callen McJunkin Gallery, Charleston, WV
 Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
 2003 Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 Albright Knox Museum, Buffalo, NY
 Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 Tippy-Stern Gallery, Charleston, SC
 Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Boulder, CO
 2002 Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
 Hidell-Brooks Gallery, Charlotte, NC
 2001 Forum Gallery, New York, NY
 Tippy-Stern Gallery, Charleston, SC
 Greenville County Museum of Art, Greenville, SC
 Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 2000 Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
 Hidell-Brooks Gallery, Charlotte, NC
 Tippy-Stern Fine Art, Charleston, SC
 Schmidt-Dean Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
 Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, Ca

1999 The Painting Center, New York, NY
Schmidt-Dean Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Toomey-Tourell Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1998 Vancouver Museum, Vancouver, B.C.
Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
McAllen Art Museum. McAllen, TX
Hidell/ Brooks Gallery, Charlotte, NC

1997 Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Oakland Museum of Art, Oakland, CA
American Academy of Arts & Letters Invitational, New York, NY
Radix Gallery, New York, NY

1996 Janet Fleisher Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Art Initiatives, New York, NY
Contemporary Art from the Permanent Collection, Gibbes Museum of Art,
Charleston, SC

1995 Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Artists from the Permanent Collection, Greenville County Museum of Art, Greenville, SC

1994 Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
808 Penn Modern Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

1993 Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Lee Arthur Studio, New York, NY
Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Abstraction Per Se, Pratt Institute Manhattan, NY
Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
University of Pittsburgh Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
Fridholm Fine Arts, Asheville, NC

1992 Dean Velentgas Gallery, Portland. ME
Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC
Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

1991 Stephen Wirtz Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Janet Fleisher Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Piccolo Spoleto Festival, City Gallery, Charleston, SC

1990 Biennial Exhibition, Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC
Foreman Gallery, Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY
Washington Square Art Gallery, New York, NY
Halsey Gallery, College of Charleston, SC
Bill Bace Gallery, New York, NY

1989 – 88 Visual Arts Gallery, New York, NY (multiple exhibitions)
City Gallery, Charleston, SC Piccolo Spoleto

1987 Halsey Gallery, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC
City Gallery, Charleston, SC Piccolo Spoleto
Visual Arts Gallery, New York, NY (curator: Will Insley)

1986 Beyond Rainbow Row, Charleston County Library, SC

Halsey Gallery, College of Charleston, SC
Lenexa Art Center, Lenexa, KS
Piccolo Spoleto, City Gallery, Charleston, SC
1985 Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC

Publications

A Little Long Time, Forum Gallery, New York, NY, 2020
Selections from The Morris Museum of Art: Spring Tide, Morris Museum of Art, Augusta GA, 2019
Clear Seeing Place: Studio Visits, New York: Permanent Green, 2016
Clear Seeing Place, LewAllen Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, 2017
Camellia, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC, 2016
Saltwater, Forum Gallery, New York, NY, 2014
Brimming Tide, Burroughs-Chapin Art Museum, Myrtle Beach, SC, 2011
Palmetto, Forum Gallery, New York, NY, 2008
Riverbend, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC, 2006
Brimming Tides, South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC, 2006
Carolina, Forum Gallery, New York, NY, 2005
Where Waters Rest, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC, 2004
Algonquin, Forum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, 2002
A Ten Year Survey, Butler Institute of American Art, Warren, Ohio, 2001
The Cavan Paintings, Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin, Ireland, 2000
River Paintings, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY and Stephen Wirtz Gallery, San Francisco, CA, 1993

Awards

2018 Commencement Speaker & Honorary Doctorate, College of Charleston, SC
2004 Fellowship in Painting, New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA)
2002 Spring Island Trust Award
2000 Peter S. Reed Foundation Award
Sea Island Trust Visiting Artist
1997 Fulbright Scholarship
Artists Work Programme Studio Grant, Irish Museum of Modern Art
1993 Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation
1991 Basil Alkazzi Award USA
Ragdale Foundation Fellowship
1988 MFA Scholarship Award, School of Visual Arts
1987 Laura Bragg Memorial Award

Lectures and Mini Classes

2018 "Clear Seeing Place – With Brian Rutenberg & Friends of the Mint," Mint Museum Randolph, Charlotte, NC
2017 Mastering Your Mark 2017 Conference: Lunchtime Keynote - Brian Rutenberg "I Am Where I Go", Cape Cod Art Association, Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, Hyannis, MA

“Meet the Maker: Brian Rutenberg”, Halsey Institute for Contemporary Art, Charleston, SC
Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum, Myrtle Beach, SC
Clear Seeing Place Book Reading, 92nd Street Y Art Center, New York, NY

Museum and Public Collections

Asheville Museum of Art, Asheville, NC
Bank of America, San Francisco, CA
Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL
Bronx Museum of Art
Burroughs-Chapin Museum of Art, Myrtle Beach, SC
Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH
Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC
Carolina First Bank, Greenville, SC
College of Charleston Foundation, SC
The Colony Group, Boston, MA
Comcast Corporation, Philadelphia, PA
Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH
Dow Jones & Co., New York, NY
Drive Time, Tempe, AZ
Federal Reserve Bank, Richmond, VA
First National Bank of Chicago, Detroit, MI
Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
Greenville County Museum of Art, Greenville, SC
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Hickory Museum of Art, Hickory, NC
Hoyt Art Center, New Castle, PA
Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga, TN
The Johnson Collection, Spartanburg, SC
McGladrey, Charlestown, MA
MGM Resorts International
Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, GA
Naples Art Museum, Naples, FL
Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY
Ogden Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
The Ozer Group, Needham, MA
Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Provincetown, MA
Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, CA
Saginaw Art Museum, Saginaw, MI
Saks Fifth Avenue, San Francisco, CA
Showboat Casino, Inc., Atlantic City, NJ
Springfield Museum of Art, Springfield, OH
Spring Island Trust, Spring Island, SC
South Carolina Arts Commission State Art Collection
Stoneridge Corporation, Warren, OH

Strategic Search Inc., Charlotte, NC

Swiss Re Corporation, New York, NY

University of Arkansas Hospital for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR

Wilmington Trust Co., New York, NY

Yale University Gallery of Art, New Haven, CT