

TOM BACHER

PER-4-MING TRANS-4-MING PHOS-4-S-CENT PAINTINGS

April 13 – June 10, 2018

Light has always been an important aspect of my work. I use phosphorescent pigments mixed with acrylic paint because it continues in the tradition of painting while also incorporating emitted light, rather than traditional pigments which only reflect light.

The addition of phosphorescent pigments allows changes in composition and color to take place in the dark as time passes. So not only am I concerned with how the artwork appears in the light, but also how it looks in the dark. The issue of color, light, darkness, space, time, balance, movement and change plays a major role in the use of these pigments. The fundamental differences between light pigments and conventional color pigments add to the complexities of these issues. Basically, I am dealing with two different sets of color problems. For example, when I mix luminous red, blue, green, and yellow, the new mixture is white—a process called admixture by addition. When I mix those same colors using conventional pigments, the colors become muddy—a process called admixture by subtraction.

I like working with light because of its energy properties. The phosphorescent pigments' ability to emit light and glow softly in a darkened environment provides a meditative experience for the viewer. Working with luminous pigments has been a journey that I've had to teach myself.

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