



Catherine Drabkin

Established Professional, Painting
Wilmington

A founding faculty member of the Delaware College of Art and Design, Catherine Drabkin has served the college as professor, Area Coordinator of Fine Arts and Foundations and Assistant Dean since 2005.

She has lectured widely and juried area exhibitions. Her work has been shown

nationally and internationally. Since 1994, she has been accepted three times into the National Academy of Design's annual exhibition and regularly into the Art Show at the 67th Street Armory in New York. In the National Academy of Design's 171st annual exhibition, Drabkin received a Certificate of Merit.



Catherine Drabkin, *Neighbor's Yard*, gouache, 2006

In 2006, she was awarded an artist residency at Chateau Rochefort-en-Terre in the Brittany region of France. She has also been invited to the MacDowell Colony, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Pouchcove Foundation, St. Johns, Newfoundland.

Her work can be found in the collections of Amtrak, the Getty Trust, Washington University, Chateau Rochefort-en-Terre, and other public and private collections. She is a graduate of the Maryland Institute /College of Art and holds a master's from Queens College/CUNY. She is a board member of the New York-based Rosemarie Beck Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving the artist's legacy, and is an artist member of Zeuxis, a nationwide organization of still-life painters.

My interests as a painter are in color and space. Landscape, the figure, and interiors are motifs I use to deepen my awareness and my connection to reality. The act of mixing colors, making marks, and placing shapes of light make the forms I see more vivid and reality more intense. What I am after is when paint becomes feeling or memory, the mark becomes light, and color becomes a signifier for emotion. What I find exciting is the transformation of materials into air and space.

The needs of each painting constantly evolve as my understanding of what I'm looking at develops. The way I begin is often not the way the painting is ultimately resolved. What is important to me is willfully not knowing where the painting will go. Avoiding foregone conclusions or preplanning keeps the process of discovery alive.

In the past six years, I have been working on the relationship of muted to intense color. Balancing these variables helps me respond to the surprise of each motif. Most recently, the language itself of painting—texture, gesture, and the physicality of the paint—is becoming exciting to me. I look forward to discovering new ways to put together the space of the rectangle, new ways to experiment with color. My goal at the end of the day is to make paintings that demand a personal response, that create opportunities for reflection and for shared wonder.

Drabkin will exhibit her paintings in the Delaware Division of the Arts Mezzanine Gallery in December.