

# VICTORIA MUNROE FINE ART

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## MARY ARMSTRONG

Any Given Moment

December 8, 2011 - January 21, 2012



*Near Here*, 2011, 22 x 24"



*Flood Tide #2*, 2011, 22 x 26"

Opening December 8 and running through January 21, 2011, Victoria Munroe Fine Art is pleased to present Mary Armstrong's recent "visual anthems to the earth"; radiant sky, sea and landscape paintings. Working from memories of the diverse landscapes of Southern California, Maine and Venice, Armstrong creates luminous, aerial views of those vast topographies. The result is an exalted American vision of nature that harkens back to the Enlightenment when the glory of our mountains, lakes and rivers stretched out under our dramatic skies inspired poets and painters alike.

Painting with oil pastel, oil paint and wax on panel, her personal technique mastered over three decades, Armstrong's fluid drawn line is prominent in these paintings. With the tip of her brush she inscribes the marshes and verdant expanses with rivulets of lines bringing a light to the surface from her under painting or articulating the edges of coastal waterways. In *Silver Sky*, the most realistic of the paintings, the electric gold line dances across the lavender clouds releasing the sunlight lurking behind. In *Blue Band*, the horizon has disappeared melding sea and sky. Here, the incised line reveals a deep red flicker giving shadowy depth to the waves.

Each painting by Mary Armstrong is an aerial view, from a different altitude, and is layered like a time exposure recording a living history of place and painting. The scored lines of shocking pink or vermillion reach like pure energy beyond the dimensions of the image. The images are layered with a sediment of color suggesting geography reinvented.

A series of 10 x 10" paintings explore vast spaces on a small scale. Her views of distant watery marshlands speckled with lavender clouds and golden meandering rivers in *Sweet Breeze* or the desert punctuated by a lone tree under a turquoise sky in *Point of View* are empty but never lonely. One feels embraced by the majesty Armstrong imagines.

Mary Armstrong splits her time between Georgetown, Maine and Newton, Massachusetts and is on the faculty of Boston College. She has shown in Boston and New York since 1986.

For further information or reproductions contact Elizabeth Reluga at 617.523.0661 or [info@victoriamunroefineart.com](mailto:info@victoriamunroefineart.com)