

For Immediate Release

MC Noyes solo show “Water Way” of ink wash paintings opens

Canal Street Art Gallery presents: *MC Noyes Water Way* solo show, premiering the artist's newest series of ink wash paintings. The *MC Noyes Water Way* solo show opens December 15th and is on view through February 10th. Join us on 3rd Friday Gallery Night in Historic Downtown Bellows Falls, December 15th from 5-7pm to celebrate and meet the artist. All gallery events are free, open to the public, and family friendly. For wheelchair access call 802-289-0104 upon arrival.

Michael C. Noyes, based in Bellows Falls, Vermont, has long maintained an oil painting practice which has been influenced by the artist's study of ink wash on paper, and of Chinese calligraphy and painting. The artist's newest series, *Water Way*, evolved into using ink wash as a primary medium. The materials the artist uses include handmade Xuan and Mulberry paper of several thicknesses, each made respectively from the bark of the Blue Sandalwood tree, the Mulberry tree and leaves, and rice stocks, along with other ingredients and lengthy processes used for over a thousand years in China. Brushes consist of natural hairs, all with specific purposes, made for example from goat, sheep, rabbit, weasel, bear, and horse. The traditional ink sticks are composed of pressed powdered pigments bound with gelatin. These are ground with water on a stone to emulsify a thick ink.

“I am drawn to the immediacy, permanence, and challenge which ink wash painting presents. The traditional techniques are hard to master and involve learning to grind inks to a proper consistency, choosing the paper, brushes, inks and colors to use and then applying one color at a time. The preparation which goes into one brushstroke is most of the process. This is why calligraphy is practiced to gain the skills needed to paint. It is attempting to control the uncontrollable. Practicing the materials and techniques of Chinese ink painting and calligraphy is what I am in pursuit of by creating my *Water Way* series.” -MC Noyes

Noyes's first hand made stab bound book of original paintings, a collaboration with Len Emery Photography, is also to be presented during the *Water Way* solo show, and is entitled *Bubble Book 1*. This book is a representation of using bubbles on the surface of flowing water as a visualization tool to detach the mind from intrusive thoughts and bring it back to the present.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street, in Historic Downtown Bellows Falls, Vermont, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00am to 5:00pm. For more information about the *MC Noyes Water Way* show or Canal Street Art Gallery, go to canalstreetartgallery.com online, call Mike by phone at 802-289-0104, or send emails to artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com.