

## TAI-SHAN SCHIERENBERG LOS PADRES

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## LYNN DENNISON HUMAN TRACES

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March 3 - April 2, 2016

Opening Reception  
Thursday March 3, 6 - 8pm

Flowers Gallery is pleased to present two concurrent exhibitions, which each explore the individual subjective encounter with the landscape.

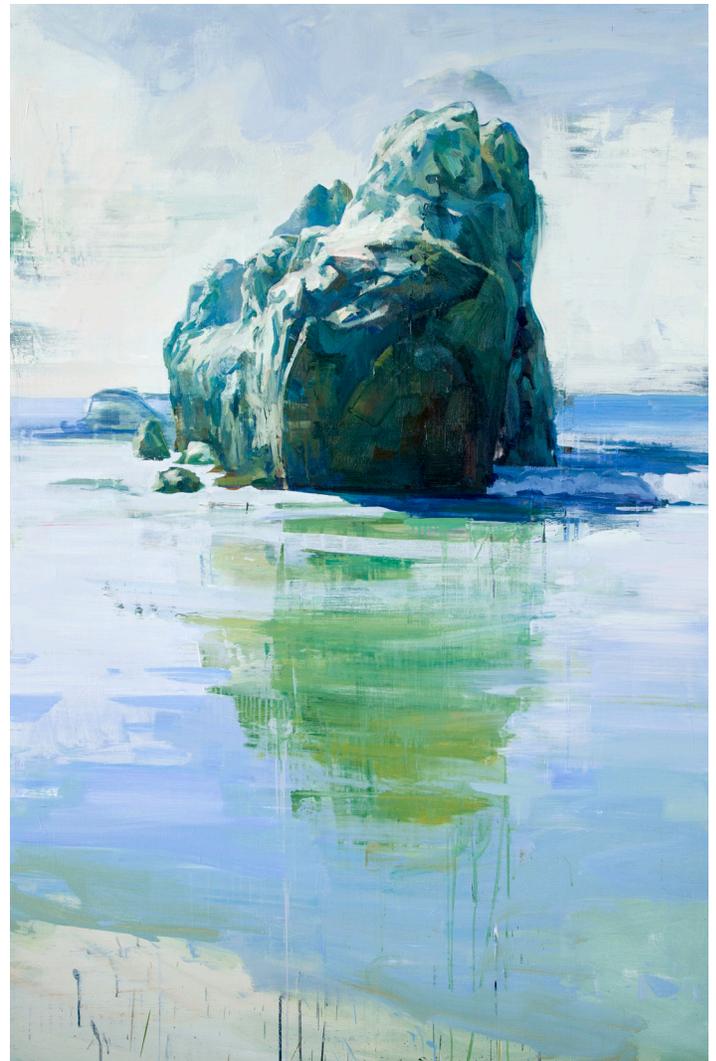
On display will be new paintings by the award-winning figurative artist Tai-Shan Schierenberg, which engage with the vast, unknowable nature of natural phenomena, while also treating the landscape as a site of personal spiritual reflection. His approach conveys the profound influence of nineteenth century German Romantic painting, particularly the paintings of Caspar David Friedrich and his portrayal of the sublime experience of nature.

Schierenberg's paintings are characterised by heavy swathes of oil paint, laid on in broad sweeping gestures, or dragged and scraped across the surface. In his new works, Schierenberg pushes the limits of his painterly surface further – exposing large areas of under-painting, and manipulating the space between the foreground and background planes with delicate drips and splashes. Bright flashes of non-naturalistic orange and red, which are revealed from behind the deep, brooding blues and greens of foliage, can be seen to imbue the paintings with an inner, psychic intensity.

Two large paintings in the exhibition depict the eerie solitude of remote woodland paths in the Bavarian Forest in Germany, where he spent much of his childhood. Pictured from a low and disorienting perspective, trees and rocks tower over the viewer to form an almost cathedral-like architectural structure. Rocks also feature in paintings of the Los Padres National Forest in California, from which the exhibition takes its title. Here, immense lone boulders, which the artist describes as the “eternally grim fathers” preside over the rugged terrain, their brutal, looming presence appearing to diminish any sense of mastery over nature.

In contrast to this sense of isolation and wilderness, the works of Lynn Dennison depict constructed natural environments such as city parks and public beaches to examine our everyday relationship with the landscape.

A new video work by Dennison will be exhibited for the first time in this exhibition. *Runners 2014* depicts static shots of a London park, interrupted by figures jogging through the frame. The composition is carefully balanced to refer to traditional



Tai-Shan Schierenberg, *Los Padres - Big Sur*, 2015,  
Oil on canvas, 70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in



Still image from *Runners*, 2014, Video, 8.32 mins

representations of the landscape, in both painting and photography, with winding paths framed by established foliage and trees. This 'natural' public space, which is carefully preserved and managed for the enjoyment of the city's residents, is seen here as a backdrop for day-to-day human activities.

Filmed over the period of a year, the video transitions between the seasons, from lush greenery, to falling leaves and snow. The changing states appear to be barely registered by the solitary runners as they plot their path through the environment. Often wearing headphones, they seem absorbed in private worlds, and disconnected from the world around them. The camera lingers until the figure disappears from view, growing smaller until they disappear behind a line of trees, or over the brow of a hill, suggesting their vulnerability against the enormity of nature, and the impermanence of our individual human traces upon the earth.

#### **ABOUT TAI-SHAN SCHIERENBERG**

Born in England in 1962, Tai-Shan Schierenberg lives and works in London. He graduated from the Slade School of Art in 1987, and in 1989 he won first prize in the (British) National Portrait Gallery's John Player Portrait Award. He was then commissioned to paint Sir John Mortimer for the Gallery. The National Portrait Gallery also holds his portraits of Lord Carrington, Lord Sainsbury, and Seamus Heaney. Other noted commissions include Professor Stephen Hawking, Sir John Madejski and a double portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh. His work has been the subject of a solo exhibition at Bradford Museum, UK. Schierenberg has also featured as a judge on the Sky Arts series Portrait Artist of the Year 2014/2015.

#### **ABOUT LYNN DENNISON**

Born in Cumbria, England, Lynn Dennison now lives and works in London. She graduated with a B.A. in Fine Art from the Slade School of Art in 1987 and later completed an M.A. in Fine Art at Central Saint Martins in 2013. Recent exhibitions include *Waterfall* and *Border country* at the De La Warr Pavilion, and *Sweet Thames, run softly while i end my song* at the Brunel Entrance Hall, London. She is the winner of the 2015 RBS Sculpture Shock Award.

#### **NOTESTO EDITORS**

For more information and images, please contact Brent Beamon [Brent@flowersgallery.com](mailto:Brent@flowersgallery.com)

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm

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