



**Noyes**  
Museum of Art  
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

Education Guide

October 5 – November 29, 2018

## ***Familiar Forms***

**Brooke Lanier, Artist**

Curated by Susanna W. Gold, Ph.D.

**Free Opening Reception**

**Noyes Gallery at Seaview**

**November 10, 2018**

**4:00-6:00pm**

On the surface, Lanier's paintings can be viewed as beautiful scenery, but these idyllic locations are also vitally important, complex, fragile ecosystems. Several paintings in this exhibition reference the sublime power of nature to destroy humans' attempts to shape the landscape to our own liking. It does not matter if structures are carefully planned and constructed. Wooden piers rot and collapse. Metal rusts out. Brick and concrete crack and crumble. Water and wind go where they want. Plants grow through the broken foundations, and animals make their homes amid the rubble.

Five years ago, when Lanier started painting these places, she was focused on the richness of the colors and patterns present in nature. The more time spent on this body of work, the more her thoughts turned toward the impact of humans on wetlands, shorelines, and lakes. In converging this series of paintings, she examined the patterns of familiar forms such as plants and waves, human impact on waterfronts, and visual puzzles of fractured landscapes. She draws the viewer's attention to often-overlooked subtleties through enlargement or isolation of elements. Sometimes, by reducing constructed elements to flattened geometric planes, conspicuously empty areas are created, surrounded by areas of careful pattern and detail. The absences underscore the importance of what remains.

Lanier paints from observation and takes thousands of photographs, from which a few hundred are selected to print. To inform these paintings, Lanier visited her home states of Minnesota and Georgia, the ancestral home of her family. She then makes collages that combine fractured, sometimes disparate views as a way of



Brooke Lanier, *Everything Is There*,  
oil on panel

making sense of the world. Through this process she explores the unifying elements of color, line, shape, and movement, using the photos, collages, and plein-air sketches as reference material. The final results are a mental composite based on careful observation and poetic license. She often works in a series and investigates different approaches to depicting the same subject, making different choices in color, brushwork, and composition. The level of detail present in her paintings reflects a compulsion to make sense of something that seems impossibly complex and chaotic. She starts to notice elements that line up in a certain way, and those things intersect with another line of logic such as a change in scale or a shift in color. Once she sees the patterns, she understands that small section of the world in that particular moment in time. As an artist, Lanier finds this to be comforting.



Brooke Lanier, *Low Tide Salt Marsh 1*, oil on panel

Brooke Lanier received her Masters of Fine Arts degree in Painting from Tyler School of Art, where she spent her first year of graduate school studying in Rome, Italy. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has shown her work in Rome, Prague, and across the United States, most notably in The Smithsonian Institute and the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She teaches watercolor painting at Tyler School of Art, Temple University.

She also teaches private lessons specializing in drawing and painting, focusing on developing a set of technical skills that will enable her students to visually express themselves. In late 2012, *Brooke Lanier Fine Art* opened in Washington Square West, Philadelphia. The gallery programming focuses on highlighting subtle, nuanced artwork by emerging and mid-career artists.

**For more information on Brooke Lanier visit:**

<https://brookelanier.com/>

**The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University:**

[www.artsgarageac.com](http://www.artsgarageac.com) 609.626.3805

**The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University:**

[www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org) 609.626.3420

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