



Consequential Landscape

BY MIMI LAUTER

Consequential Landscape, 2020
The artist is participating in the fifth iteration of Prospect New Orleans, now postponed until 2021.

IN LATE FALL OF 2019, I BEGAN A BODY OF work about landscapes. Every morning I took my usual walk around my garden and observed the season changing. Even in Los Angeles, the plants in my garden either died or went to sleep for the winter. I began planning and envisioning what I wanted the next season to look like in the garden—the colors, the light, the texture and the architecture of the space. I thought about the experience of walking along paths, stopping, slowing down, sitting, standing, moving on, all while thinking about life beyond the garden—family, friends, politics and painting.

Following this early-morning routine, I would enter my studio and begin to work on large-scale landscapes. I was attempting to answer some questions I have regarding the space of a painting, the path or the journey that one takes through life and the burden that (I feel) a painting bears to represent the experience of being alive and then passing. Can a painting give a feeling of wandering

through space with little understanding of where one is headed and simultaneously be theatrical and purposeful? It seems that maybe that's how we all travel through life, through a garden and even through our collective history.

Consequential Landscape is a painting on paper using soft and oil pastels. I made this piece during the height of the coronavirus pandemic and while under quarantine. My work often attempts to represent an intimate and personal space while also depicting something much larger than myself. I interpret the term "landscape" as a vast space rather than a single point, figure or enclosed area. It immediately implies a road that continues beyond the frame of vision, like a path without an end. While working on this particular painting, I felt isolated, not knowing the next direction that I or the world around me would take. The piece depicts a landscape of mountains while also conveying the delicate and ephemeral quality of the physical space around us.