

# HAW/CONTEMPORARY - PRESS RELEASE

Lisa Grossman - *REACH*

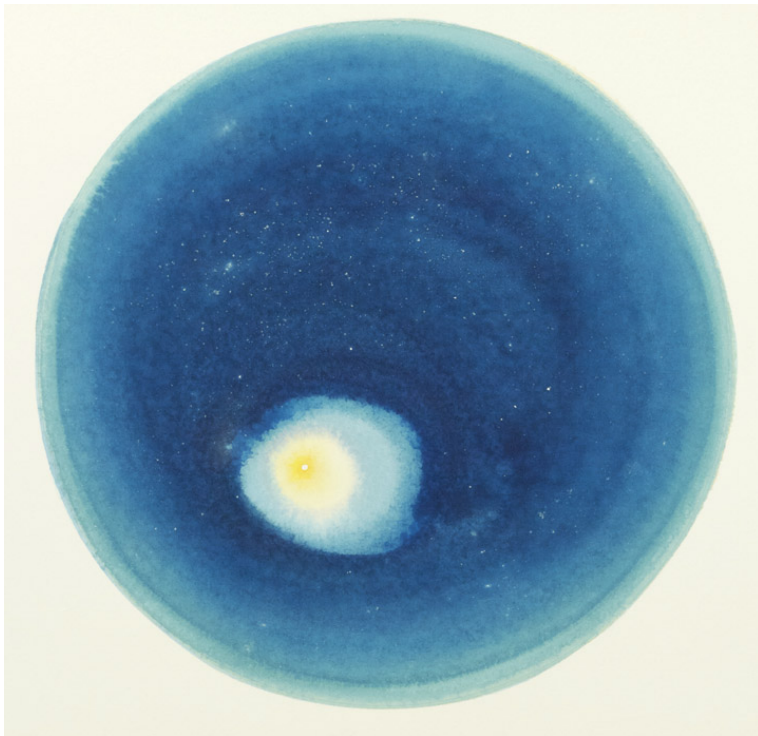
September 5 - October 18, 2014

Opening Reception - Friday, September 5, 5-9 PM

“REACH includes *plein air* landscapes as well as studio investigations of certain naturally occurring visual phenomena of twilight in the open prairie. For over twenty years, I’ve painted on location in Kansas’s tallgrass prairies and have experienced and painted distant horizons with atmospheric perspective, dramatic color shifts and vivid spectrums of sundown and twilight, Earth shadows, cloud arcs, etc.; however, I’ve never focused on each of these for the subjects of a show.

REACH references a reach of horizon, a vast prairie space, an expanse of sky, as well as reaching more deeply into my visual investigations, the physicality of reaching across broad

painting surfaces to create the work, and ultimately, reaching the viewer.



None of these visual phenomena last more than fifteen minutes or so. The perpetual motion of the planet reveals peak moments that are powerfully intense and ephemeral—sunset or moonrise, for example. They leave an impression, an after-image perhaps, and then they are gone, transformed into something else.

By necessity, I’m painting fleeting moments; however, they are composites of several moments or half an hour even...so they’re not static but contain a sense of movement, of time and light and color evolving. When you soften your eyes and stare at the work, some similar optical and

atmospheric effects from direct experience can be simulated—contrast phenomena, after-images, Mach effects, airlight—even my own near-sightedness when I remove my glasses to blur and reduce detail in the view.

The visual experiments and groupings are informed by science but my process is far from scientific. I’m always mixing it up and can never do the same thing twice. My method is one of experimentation and discovery achieved by spontaneous, intuitive, and often impulsive responses to my ever-evolving surroundings.”

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Born in 1967 in western Pennsylvania, Grossman moved to Kansas City in the late 1980's, and over the last twenty years established herself as a prominent painter and printmaker of eastern Kansas's open prairie spaces and river valleys. In more than twenty solo shows in the Midwest and on either coast, Grossman has evolved a luminous and minimalist plein air style, focusing on the horizon and subtle shifts in light and color, weather and season.

Based in Lawrence, Kansas since 1996, Grossman's work is included in numerous public, private, corporate, and museum collections including the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas; the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in Overland Park, Kansas; and the Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University. Grossman has completed several significant commissions including large canvases for the Chiefs Art Program at Arrowhead stadium and the H & R Block Center, both in Kansas City. She was a 2009 recipient of the Kansas Arts Commission's Mid-Career Fellowship. Grossman earned degrees from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

**Gallery Hours: 9-5 Tuesday through Friday, 12-5 Saturday**

## **Press Contact**

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