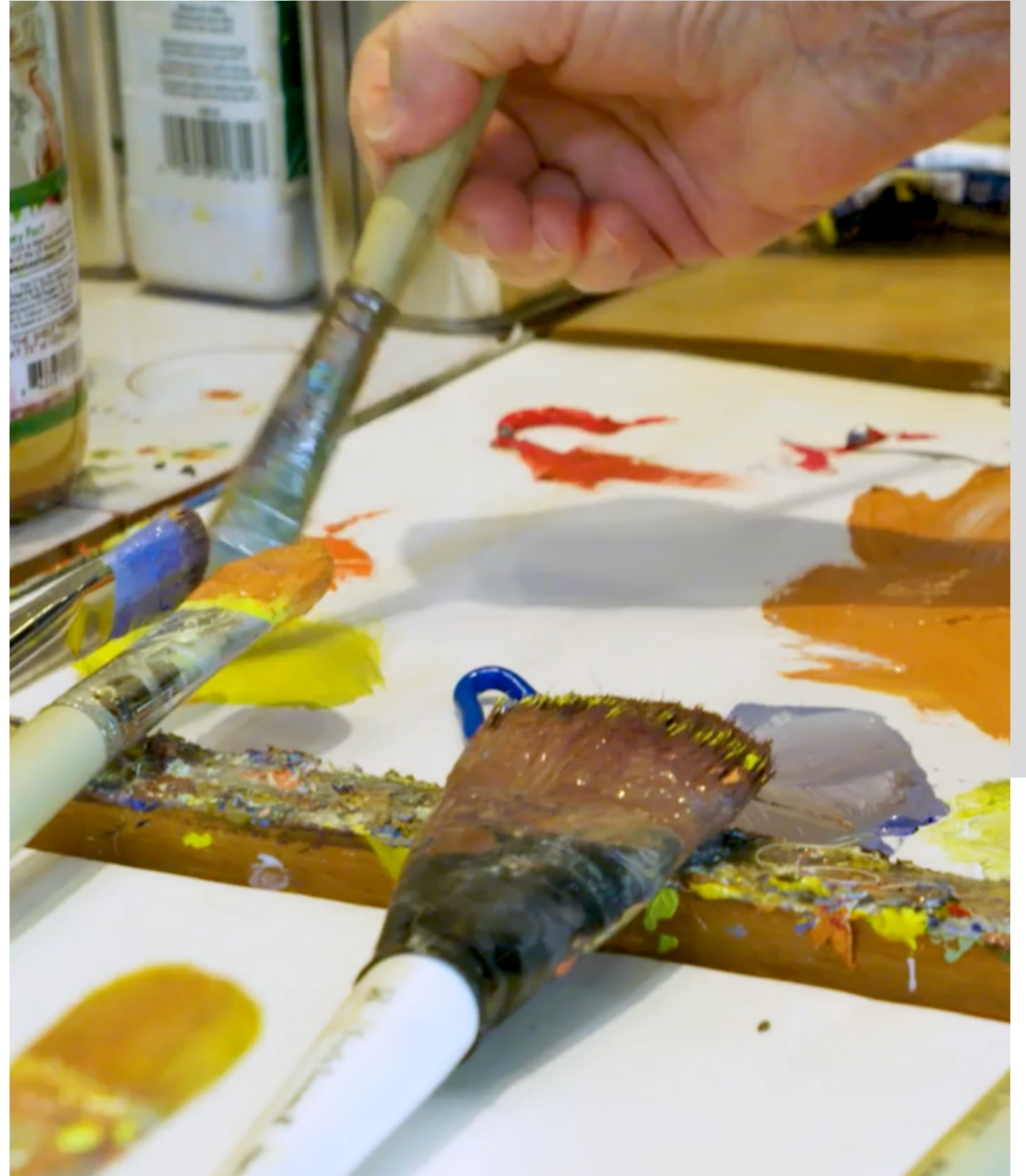


2026

Susan Sommer

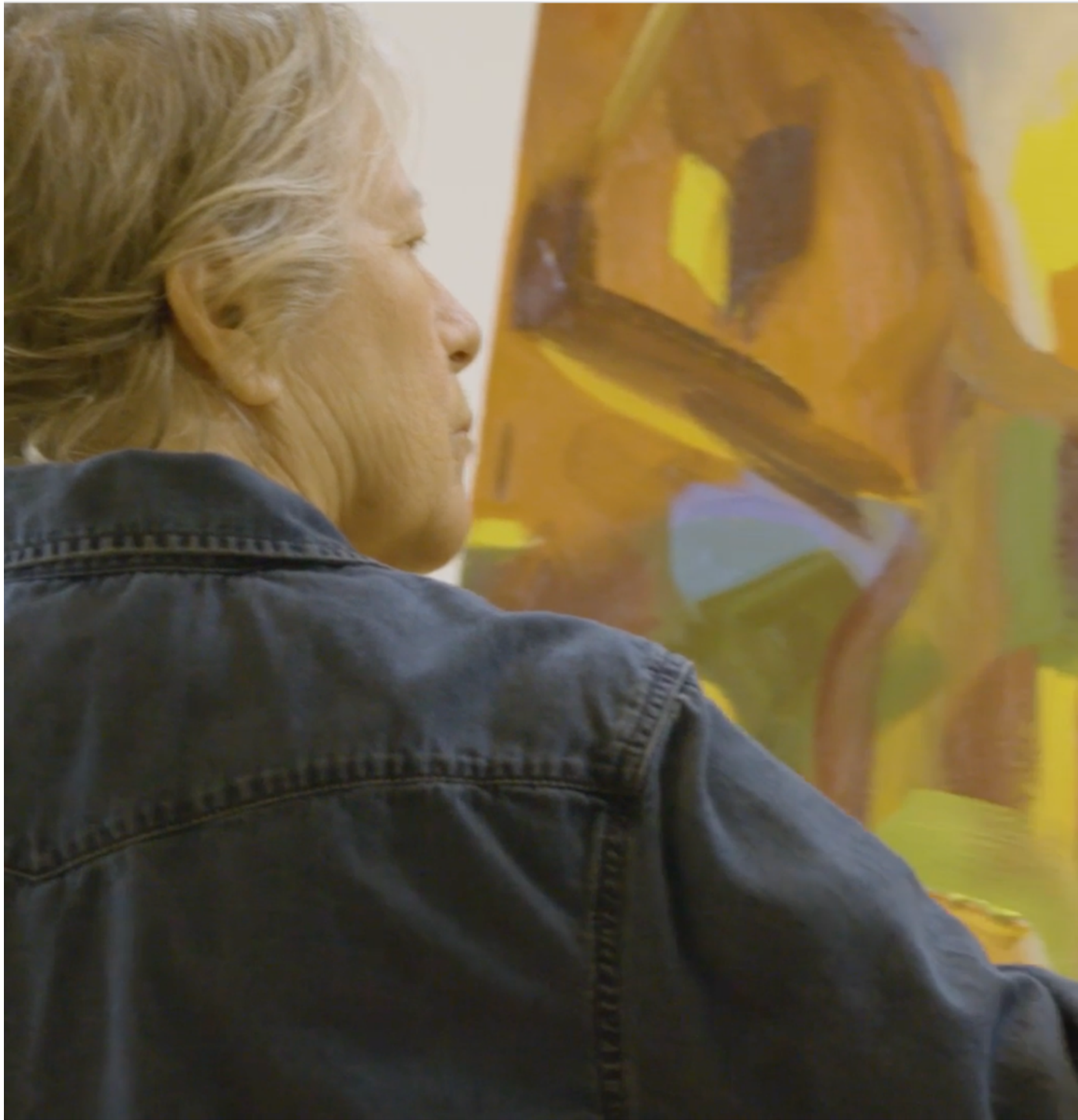
Contemporary abstract painter,
photographer and writer.

PRESS KIT



Introduction

Susan Sommer's paintings invite viewers into a world shaped by color, movement, and close observation. Drawing from her deep connection to the natural world, her work captures the rhythms and emotional resonance of a landscape rather than its literal form. Through decades of dedicated practice, Sommer has developed a distinctive visual language that is both intimate and expansive.





Artist Bio

Susan Sommer attended The Art Students League of New York from 1965-1970 where she studied figure drawing and figure painting. From 1968-1972 she studied at Moore College of Art & Design where she earned a BFA in Painting. She later studied The Mathematical Basis of the Arts, a treatise written by Joseph Schillinger, where his goal is to disclose the mechanism of creatorship as it manifests itself in nature and in the arts.

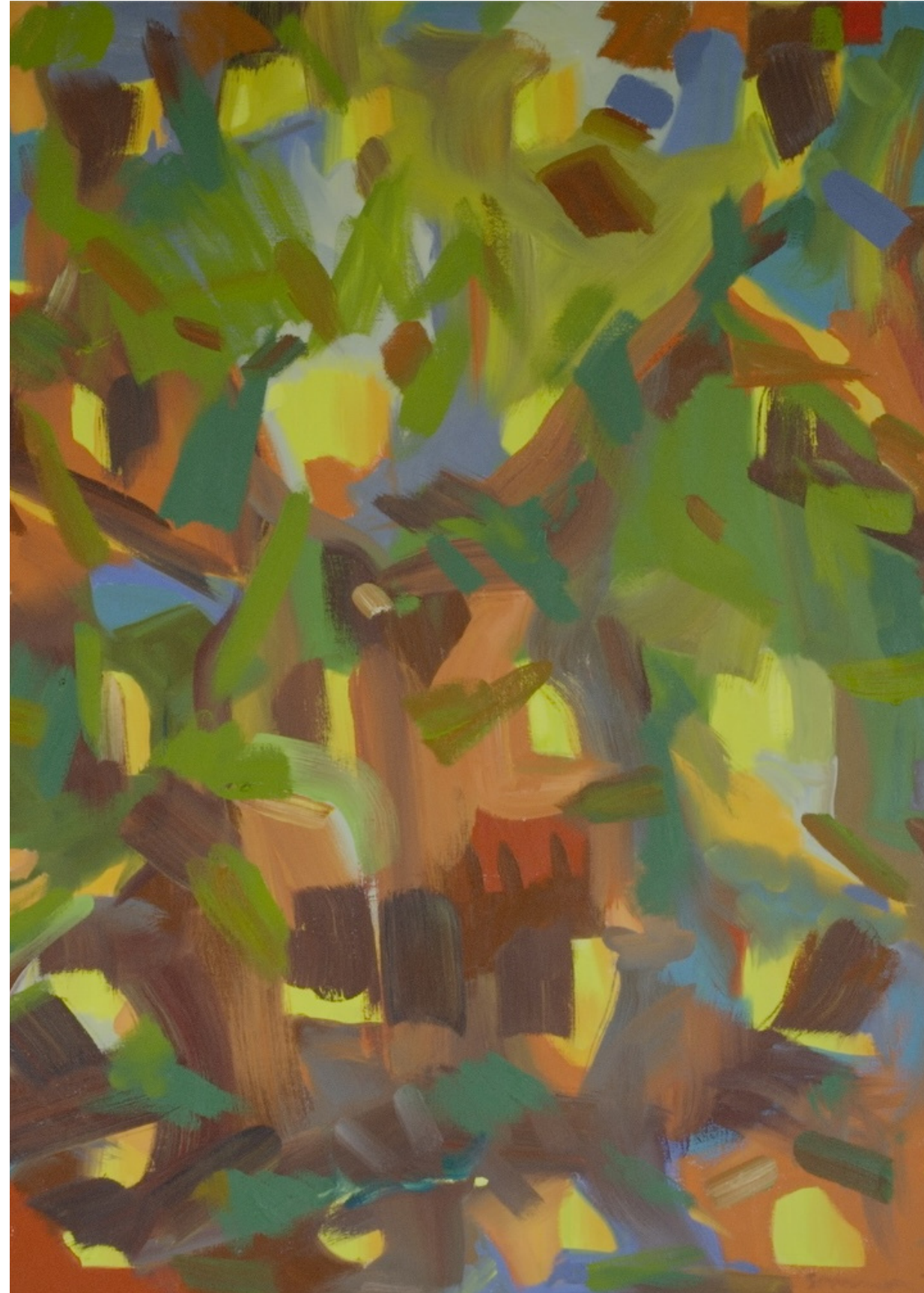
After graduating from Moore, Susan set up a studio in New York City, painting full time and availing herself in the city's museums galleries and educational institutions and regularly attending the New York City ballet. In 1981, Susan moved to the Hudson Valley region of New York State where her work continues to be inspired by the light and rhythm of this glorious environment.

An Experiment
40 x 30 1/2 inches
Oil on linen
2024

”

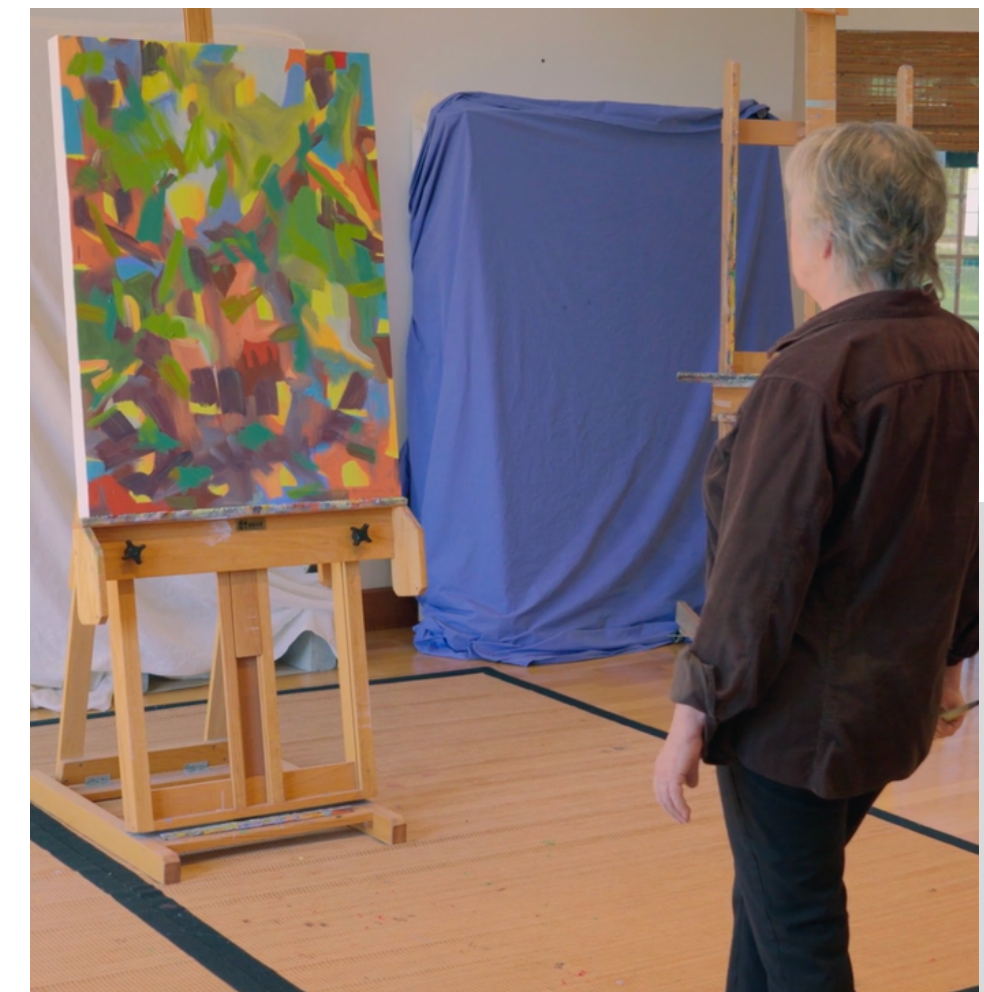
One of Susan's
great strengths
is her sense of
color.

Robert P. Metzger
Art Curator & Museum Director



Susan is always thinking. You can see it in her expression and her demeanor. She's always thinking of her ultimate work in life, which is painting. When you look at the contribution of United States to world art, it really begins with abstract expressionism, which was so important to putting America on the map in a world context and continuing this great tradition.

- Rober P. Metzger





Artist Statment

Seeking to express pure freedom with clarity on a two-dimensional rectangle in oil paint, my point of departure is color placement, where only the first color is arbitrary, unfolding in any of an infinite number of permutations. This could mean starting with a light blue, a combination of manganese blue, ultramarine deep and white with a dash of cadmium orange, evoking atmosphere, sky or water, and building from there, by way of color patterning based on allusions to rhythm, velocity, depth, foreground and sound.

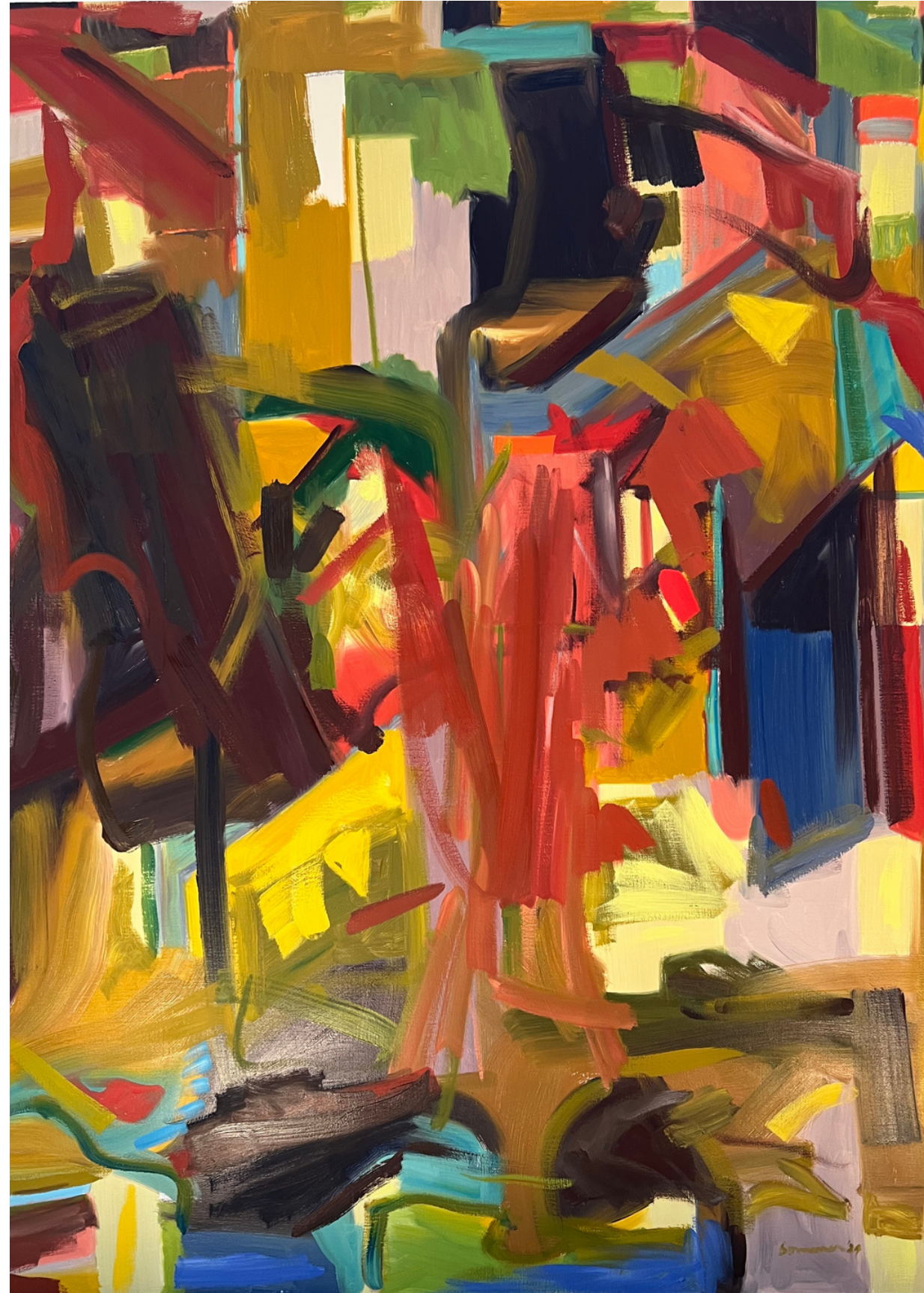
During the winter, when I paint indoors, I rely on interior light and music. They describe the rhythmic evolution of the painting. I dance and stretch, and my body becomes a conduit for the rhythm. While listening to native music, particularly Caribbean , African and South American, the painting reflects those rhythms in brush strokes and in color, one relating to the other. Lately, listening to pure jazz and classical music, a composed and classical style and composition is being described. This is an audio-visual relationship that occurs naturally.

BRIGHT COLOR GRID
Oil on linen
52x66
2022

”

There's an
intelligence to
Susan's work.

Peter Frank
Art Critic & Curator



Susan Sommer has long derived the form, color, and spirit of her paintings from nature. She dotes on the different vibrancies of wild and domesticated flora, the elusive energies of small animals, and the constant meteorological transitioning from still to furious, enduring to endearing qualities always pulsing in the soul and the air.

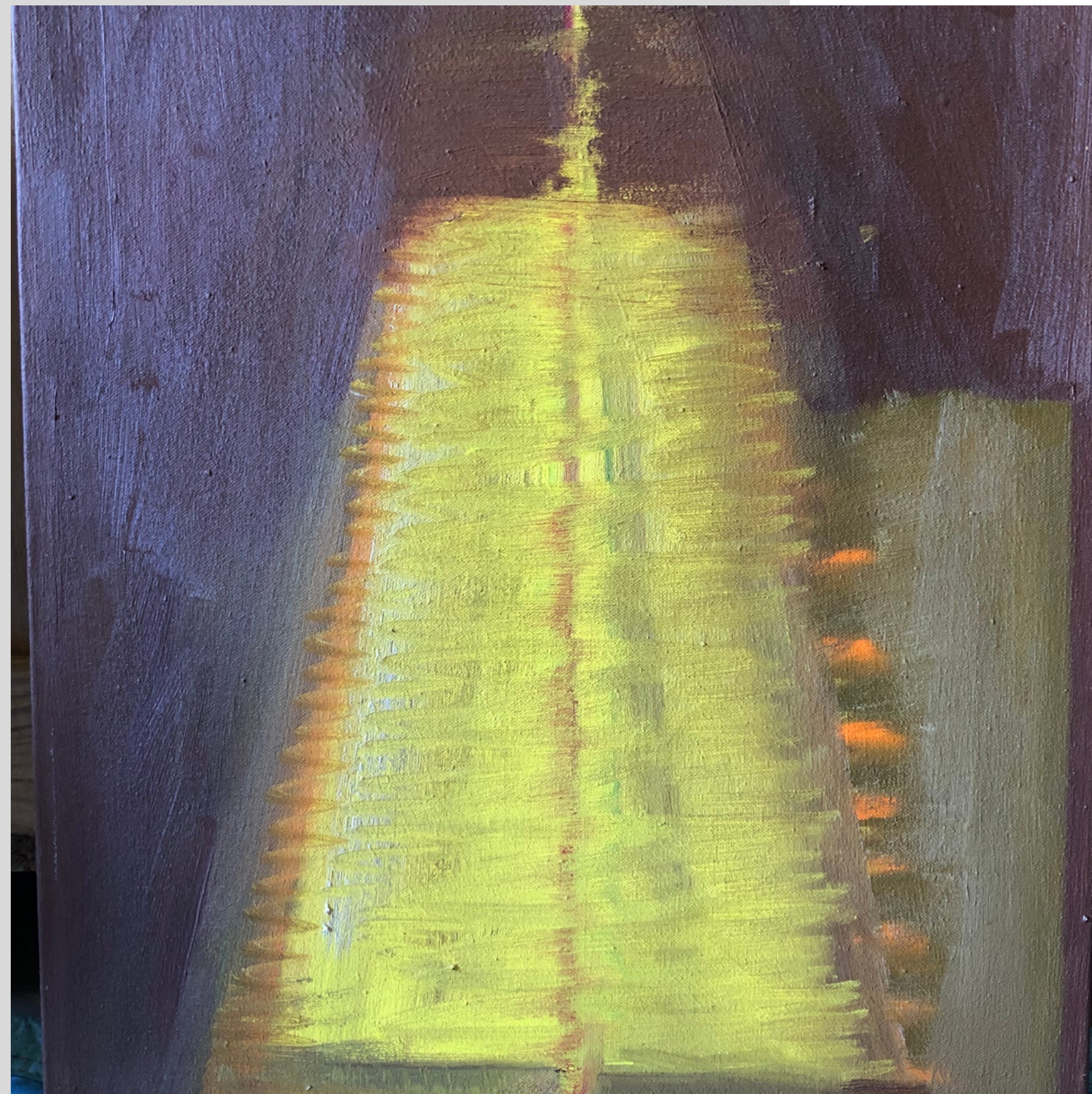
- Peter Frank



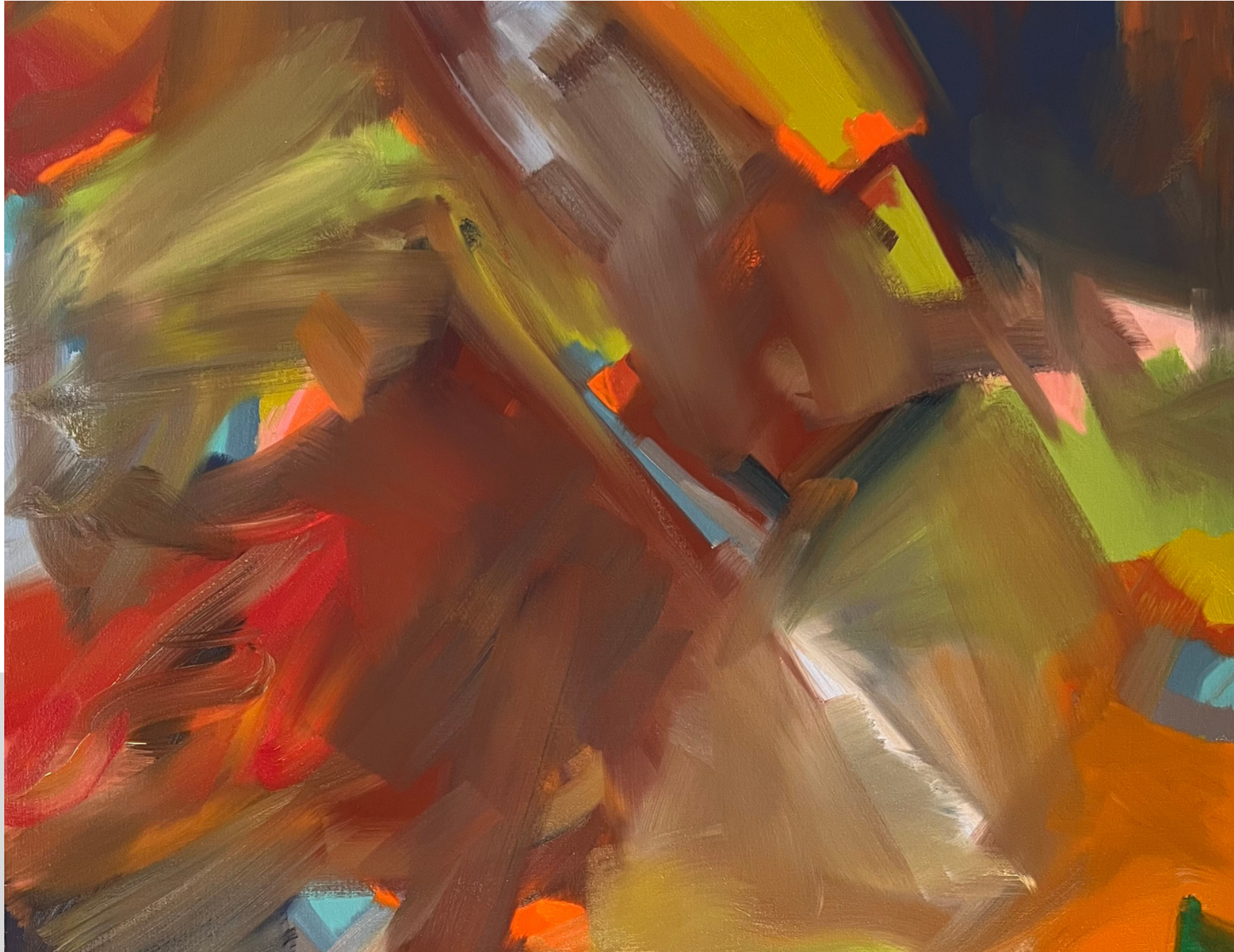


Recent Exhibition

The painting "Golden" from the Native American series was chosen for exhibition at the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art in Santa Ana, California July - August 2026. Curated by Peter Frank.



GOLDEN
20x16 inches
Oil on linen
1992



Featured Work

”

**BLURRED
REALITY** takes
the eye, and
then the body.

Peter Frank
Art Critic & Curator

Blurred Reality is not a challenge to or betrayal of our eyesight. It is an invitation to go a bit deeper into and under nature's verdant, restless canopy. The directional lines that so often act as visual armatures in Sommer's work here command their own force, taking shape as rays of sunlight and as drops of rain.

- Peter Frank



Festival Screening

Quiet Rhythm: A selection of Paintings by Susan Sommer, a short film that intimately traces Susan Sommer's lifelong creative journey will be screened at the Woodstock Film Festival this October. Dates and times to be announced.





THANK YOU

Susan Sommer

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