

THADDEUS BEAL

NARRATIVE LINES

ARTIST STATEMENT

As we seek to make sense of the world, we often turn to narrative. The memory of when we last touched an object helps us later. We give directions based on remarkable sites. Recalling a conversation helps in remembering a person. At this level, the narrative lines are simple -- like a dance pattern -- like the works on paper here.

When the narrative becomes more complicated, as in making a sophisticated argument, working to maintain a relationship or defining foreign policy, the lines multiply, change direction and break up. It becomes a struggle for coherence. We fight entropy. We distort. We force connections. We find patterns where they don't exist. We do everything we can to organize and to find meaning. In the midst of this confusion, there can be a kind of overriding order – patterns beyond our vision -- beyond our understanding. Perhaps they mimic brainwaves. These are the narrative lines of the paintings in this show.