

## Artists Statement - Ida Schmulowitz

I have painted landscapes outside from a pedestrian bridge overlooking a highway since 1983. I feel a very strong bond to this particular place (India Point). I've felt compelled to record it year after year in all seasons and times of the day. I struggle with trying to combine the structural essence of the place with my internal vision. Changes in the landscape itself, or shifting my vantage point just slightly, are the catalysts for creating a new series.

Working on a large scale (6'x8') in oil, outside, has posed interesting problems of transportation. My canvas can be rolled when walking to my spot. I lay the unstretched canvas flat on the ground to paint. On the way back, I keep the wet canvas flat and drag it back flat through the streets to my studio. This contributes somewhat to an imperfect surface, that I like to work with, and feel it is part of the process.

Rather than starting one painting and working on it until it is completed, I have many paintings in progress at the same time. I layer each painting over the course of months, bringing each out at different times of the day or season, until there is one particular day when the painting comes together as a whole. The final painting reflects a specific time and season, but the painting has a larger sense of time and space because of the layering process.

The gouache paintings are from an ongoing series that I have painted looking out my studio windows since 1993. I started painting watercolors looking out the windows of my studio when the weather was not appropriate for outdoor work, and I wanted to complete a work from start to finish in a few hours. After adding gouache as a medium, my process evolved to become more like my work in oils, layered and changed over a long period of time.