

'Pat Service: A Road Trip'

In 1984 I rented a studio on Water Street where I met Pat, who was busy painting in the space next door. I began photographing her paintings almost right away. Over the past four decades, I believe I have shot a picture of every canvas she's painted, witnessing first hand Pat's impressive commitment to her work, and evolution as an artist - an evolution which I would describe as deliberate, considered, and occasionally startling.

When I first met Pat, she was creating canvases of gardens and landscapes employing complex layers of oil and acrylic in the cool end of the colour spectrum. Her work has transformed and her colour palette has changed. But whether her early landscapes, or these bold new works, her paintings have always been delivered with a distinctive impressionistic style, and a certain knowing naiveté.

These marvelous, colourful paintings brilliantly speak of the road with subtly surprising attention to detail. Great swaths of bold colour, and familiar graphic elements demand the viewer's attention and instill a sense of excitement for the open road. Pat's playful compositions use iconic, but never clichéd forms and symbols, each piece evoking a different mood or experience that comes to the long distance traveler - the long diminishing lines of the highway with the ubiquitous power lines catching the sun on the roadside ("Straightaway", 2013), the evening drive through an unfamiliar town ("Corner", 2013), the melancholy of the approaching night ("Joan II", 2013), or the exhilaration as a beautiful vista unfolds ("Remember", 2013).

Pat has charmed and delighted us for many decades. Each new exhibition has added to an impressive lifetime of work. Thank you Pat.

Stuart