



Tula Telfair: From A Distance

These small jewel-like paintings embrace the slippery nature of attempting to recall landscapes only seen from a distance – seductive and elusive visions provided by fleeting glimpses viewed from afar. The geographic regions depicted in these invented landscapes exist in areas where change is rapidly occurring. My recent work is informed by on-site-visits to active volcanoes, locations where tectonic plates meet and earthquakes occur daily, the solitary Arctic and Antarctic regions, isolated areas in Africa, and locations where shifting rivers and coastlines impact the edges of the lands they border. This body of work documents the unplanned visions witnessed along the way, *from a distance*.

The images appear to be photographs, but dissolve into painterly veils of gesture and color at close range. They become fluid and unfixated, perfectly echoing the experience of witnessing passing visions where details dissolve and the lasting impression is similar to that of a dream. I spent my formative years living in the jungles that bordered the Ivindo River in Gabon, which is on the Equator in West Central Africa. Our primary concern was how nature could help us or put us at risk and how to respect its beauty and power. These paintings archive my deeply felt responses to the natural world, the planet we live on, and how the subjectivity of perception and the power of memory anchor our place in it.

____Tula Telfair



About the Artist

Tula Telfair lives and works in Connecticut and has been represented by Forum Gallery since 2004. The recipient of many awards, including the Walter Gropius Master Artist award (2015), she is Chair of the Department of Art and Art History at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut where she has taught since 1989 and served as Academic Dean of the Arts and Humanities, in addition to receiving the Binswanger Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Born in Bronxville, NY in 1961, Tula Telfair grew up in Africa, East Asia, and Europe before settling in the United States. Paintings by Tula Telfair are held and exhibited by many public and private collections, including the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Asheville Art Museum, New Orleans Museum of Art, and The Hudson River Museum.