

As seen in the
August 2010 issue of

 AMERICAN
art COLLECTOR



UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 15 works

August 6-20, 2010

Addison Art Gallery

43 Route 28

Orleans, MA 02653

(508) 255-6200

• SHOW LOCATION ORLEANS, MA

NICK PATTEN

Interior light

Nick Patten pursues his idea of beauty by painting what he wants to see. In his ongoing quest to produce beautiful paintings, he is constantly documenting things in his mind's eye that he would like to see frozen in time or stopped for examination.

"It is always my hope that my paintings will strike others as beautiful, but it is my internal instincts that always dictate and come first," says Patten.

In his first solo show at Addison Art Gallery, Patten continues to explore light and shadow in room interiors with particular attention to brushstroke and gradation in the darkest areas.

"To me, it is a natural subject and one that I find endlessly fascinating, satisfying and challenging," he says. "The subtleties of what happens in the portrayal of space have a deep hold on me. The more I do, the more I see. Although I use photographs that I take as source material, I don't want the paintings to be photographs. I am always trying to balance the accurate with the beautiful."

In this grouping, Patten used a camera to explore the nuances of spaces found while spending the day alone in a friend's New England home. Editing these room interiors is a critical part of his process, and in doing so, he will sometimes get other ideas of how to proceed.

"When I remove a piece of furniture or a lamp or a wall, sometimes that sparks the idea of...what would be there instead? That alone can take me down a path that hadn't occurred to me when I snapped or first viewed the photo," says Patten. "I am always challenged by the idea of making the ordinary look extraordinary."

In *Intuition*, for example, Patten edited out an assortment of interesting objects that were on the black half-moon table in favor of just the diffused light landing on the surface.

"This piece to me is about restraint," he says, "because there was very bright light outside; but somewhat restrained from the blinds it was a challenge to portray the subtle colors of the walls and the chairs. The picture in the painting is one of my very favorite pieces of art that my



PURPOSE, OIL ON PANEL, 36 X 24"

wife Amy made when she was a child."

Patten loves doors ajar, and although he doesn't set out to create a narrative, doors ajar seem to carry one for many viewers. *From a Bedroom* illustrates the idea of an unseen presence.

"To me, it is more about the shape, angles and light...they offer such a variety depending

on whether the door has been painted or not, where the light is coming from, how strong it is. But the mystery of what is behind or around the door is ever present," he concludes. •

For a direct link to the
exhibiting gallery go to 
www.americanartcollector.com



ASCENDING, OIL ON PANEL, 36 X 24"



FROM A BEDROOM, OIL ON PANEL, 14 X 11"



The Collector Says . . .

"Nick Patten invites us to fall in love with light again, especially the light of rooms and halls of New England homes. Patten's places glow with angled, reflected, curtain-diffused light, light that somehow still holds the someone who's just left, anticipates someone just arriving."

—Paul Diehl

INTUITION, OIL ON PANEL, 40 X 36"