



ECK FOLLEN

There is no place where I feel as safe artistically as I do at Haystack. Here, whether as student, teacher, or trustee, I have always felt completely free to explore materials and techniques, schools of thought and points of view, scale and dimension, concept and content.

Some years ago, Haystack initiated a program called New Works. It enables artists who have taught at Haystack to come back for a 5 day “retreat”...time to work in the studios, make friends with other artists, reconnect with ideas that have been put aside for one reason or another. I have had the privilege to attend this event several times.

On my last New Works retreat, I spent a few days ripping pages out of magazines and developing studies from the great saturated colors of the fashion ads. This process allowed me to begin to work in two dimensions...something that I have always been afraid of. Most recently I have been using those collage studies from that New Works retreat as the basis for this series of paintings.

The encaustic paintings displayed here have evolved to combine those color collage studies with my long interest in graphic linear elements and the way that they are used to define, divide, include, exclude or establish order and control. For linear inspiration, I draw upon imagery from aerial photographs, landscapes, architecture, and architectural drawings. These paintings are hot off the presses, and I am quite curious what I am going to learn from them.