



ERIC ZENER

GALLERY HENOCH

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Cover: *Blossom*, Oil on Canvas, 66" x 88"



Summer Ripple, Oil on Canvas, 48" x 72"



Ethereal, Oil on Canvas, 60" x 90"



Floating By, Oil on Canvas, 38" x 48"



Long Journey, Oil on Canvas, 54" x 108"





Everything In Its Right Place, Oil on Canvas, 48" x 60"



Lemon Sun, Mixed Media with Resin, 41" x 72"

Eric Zener's paintings depict the moment of physical and psychic transformation that occurs when we transcend the limitations of day to day experience. He uses vast expanses of water and sprawling forests as signifiers of this realm of forces greater than ourselves. In his canvases we find divers suspended midair or swimmers plunging into deep blue water. Each of these subjects are consumed by their activity, and we can savor this state of immersion vicariously through Zener's work. Dramatic plumes of white bubbles give these swimmers a sense of action, but Zener's brush remains calm and articulate as it renders the speckled light on the shoulder of a swimmer.

The figures in Zener's work appear to be concentrating fully on their activity, mentally and physically engaged as their bodies move through space. *RISING* shows a female swimmer with her back arched as she heads towards the surface. She appears tranquil as she emerges from a cloud of bubbles. To be weightless is to be momentarily free of worry, and these paintings capture this precious feeling. The water glows in shades of turquoise and sapphire—animated by the motion of the swimmer and the rays of the sun. In his resin works, such as *LEMON SUN*, Zener amplifies the effect of sunlight by using silver-leaf to create a reflective ground. Shimmering through glossy resin, these panels bring the radiance of sunshine into the picture directly. Immersing our bodies in water silences the chatter of our brains, and Zener's canvases transfer this experiential clarity into pictorial terms.

Several works focus on underwater plumes with no swimmer in sight. These mysterious compositions contemplate the impact of a body in water without show-

ing the protagonist. *NIGHT PLUNGE I* features one of these puzzling scenarios amid a dark body of water. A handful of round bubbles float in front of an icy-looking plume made of churning clouds of blue, green, and white. Unlike the sun-drenched swimmers, this scene gives off a slightly ominous energy. The body of water in which this disruption occurs is deep and boundless. The surface, however, contains swirling glimmers of light providing hope that the swimmer will soon emerge from their journey into the unknown.

Three related works portray dense thickets of branches and leaves with sunlight streaming through. Gazing upwards at the sky, the details of the foliage in these canvases provide a mesmerizing encounter—filtering the light through their intricate patterns. The upper third of *LONG JOURNEY* is backlit by the white glow of an overcast sky. The crooked silhouettes of branches zig zag across the frame with green leaves rhythmically interspersed. Short choppy brushstrokes come together to form a thick layered cluster of leaves amid dark gray tree trunks. In *BLOSSOM* a flurry of small white flowers form an exuberant constellation against a crisp blue sky. The effect of so many active marks is dazzling—giving visual form to the wild energy of a tree blooming in spring. As with the swimmers immersed in bodies of water, these paintings speak to the phenomena that allow us to escape our customary limitations and to connect to our surroundings in a transformative manner. Through his concise brushwork and choice of subjects, Eric Zener's paintings give us the opportunity to engage with the healing power of nature.

Peter Brock



Self, Oil on Canvas, 72" x 84"



Night Plunge I, Oil on Canvas, 72" x 84"