

Art: Exhibit offers two views of landscapes

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By Sylvia Krissoff
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While the emphasis this month at Water Street Gallery in downtown Douglas is on landscape, it is offered in two very different points of view through an exhibit titled "Site and Insight."

Kathy Buist writes: "My inspiration to paint landscapes is my absolute love of nature. I love the way it looks, feels and smells; its magnificent power and grace."

She paints in plein air, yet it is not a photographic and realistic image that evolves.

A New York Times reviewer writes: "Kathy Buist's Long Island and Vermont scenes are so richly brushed they make the paint seem almost sensual. ... Each stroke abbreviating a unit of vegetation takes on a comparatively grand scale in this format."

These are eloquent interpretations of Buist's large, vibrant canvases in which the paint is wrapped around the stretchers, and the strokes of paint sweep across planes, which, for Buist, are "intense works (that) convey a reverence for the earth, which manifests itself in quite sensual ways."

In her piece, "Beachside," those sweeping strokes that are rendered with "hands, sticks, large brushes, the back end of my brushes or paint rags" convey the feeling of shore, water and sky without any specificity. A cresting of white waves may be discerned in this and in her other work as well, especially "Amorilla Light," where dashing white brushstrokes and a frenzied palette knife etch the frothing waves.

The Michigan native, who now lives in New York, has exhibited extensively throughout the United States, including the National Woman's Museum Archives in Washington, D.C. Her work is part of private collections internationally.