

Lisa Dworkin

Artist Statement

The series, *Suburban Vernacular*, is a collection of Summit cityscapes and scenes that are evocative of narrative and graced by hilltop light. What are the personal moments and memories that live in or are enhanced by the suburban architecture? As a recent resident of Summit, I see the open doors, illuminated lights, smokestacks billowing, cars idling as intimate glimpses of a community churning, breathing, connecting.

I paint in oil, a wonderfully forgiving medium that allows me to layer, change, grow. I sketch the scene and layer on the color and value variation. I commit to the detail and I edit. I harden edges or blend adjacent colors. I look for the answers to my curiosity about the scene to emerge in my piece. While this visual discipline has made me a sharper observer of the everyday, it is the joy of expressing my response to a moment, a mood, a look that drives me to continue. The commitment to a canvas is a daunting, exhilarating and empowering experience.

I shed early morning light on a cold station; I hear the train and feel the crumble of the frozen ground beneath my feet; I cast shadows and call employees out to see the light at the end of the day; I float above a parking lot and sway with the grasses; I open a door to smell the fresh cut grass; I tend a garden; I hear a conversation; I feed a hungry soul with comfort food and connection. I do all these life-affirming actions through my painting. I infuse myself in imagery. I see metaphor. The scenes are a sample of suburban life. But through light and color and space and time, I see and feel more.