ARITST’S STATEMENT

While working in 2005 on a series of paintings revealing energetic gestural lines and bold color, I began a work that only years later would guide me in a new direction. The explorative painting featured a large yellow field with dark color fragments penetrating the surface. The interactions of the forms and the field in this painting, which now hangs in the second floor of Trippet Hall, intrigued me; at one moment the forms were breaking through the field, then suddenly it was the field overtaking the forms. The striking visual character of this painting led me to the title “Transition”. Because I wasn’t finished with the series of gestural paintings, I put the compositional issue of field vs. form investigated in “Transition” aside while I continued to pursue the gestural paintings for four more years.

With the arrival of my sabbatical this past year, I revisited the concept of “Transition”. By this time it was no longer just a formal exploration, but also took on a deeply personal meaning as I considered my retirement from teaching after this academic year. While embarking on the *Transition Series* from June 2009 through August 2010, I also recognized the profound universal metaphor that it represented at a primal, pre-language level.

As individuals, we are all in a constant state of change or transition. Some of our daily transitions are quite mundane, such as from hungry to fed, sleeping to waking, sitting to standing. However, many of our transitions are quite significant even though we are not even aware of them the moment they occur. Examples of these more profound transitions we experience are the transition from friendship to love, from spouse to father or mother, from health to illness or the reverse. Often we are conscious that a transition has occurred only after the fact. It is as if we live our lives through a rear view mirror. Always trying to catch up to what has already transpired. Most importantly transitions guarantee that life won’t be smooth, but none-the-less will provide richness to how we can experience it.

When we realize one of life’s transitions has occurred we may be momentarily shocked or frozen as we try to regain our emotional balance. Likewise, in this *Transition Series* I present the viewer with a frozen transitional moment. The field may be about to overtake the forms or the forms might be about to break through the field. The forms may also be about to gather together or they may be pushing father away from each other. Visually, as in life, only the next moment will reveal what transition has taken place.

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