



Melanie Essex

Heavy Weather

August 1 - August 31, 2025

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, August 1, 5-7PM

CALDBECK GALLERY

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image: GREENLAND 2025 oil on canvas 30 x 30 inches

Heavy Weather

How might we be completely subsumed by, and with, an environment? In HEAVY WEATHER, Melanie Essex opens this question with an engaged intensity as an invitation to linger in moments of ecstasy. This series, composed over the past year, offers a different attention to weather, reflective of the inundation of ominous news and escalating intensities, is yet a resolute visual testimony to atmospheric beauty. The titles of the works reflect this cacophony, both specific to their composition as they absorb – and yes, supersede – the circumstances of their creation. These works suggest transformation as a continual process, the layered temporalities in a moment, dense fog as an open element, the calm to be found amid ruckus, the vibrant saturation of satisfaction.

Essex speaks of these works as a kind of burst, an inheritance: beginning with a color wash or sanded down canvas of an earlier work, from which the composition emerges. The pieces begin with color and build, gathering layers of attenuated detail and close noticing as the painting surfaces. As some works extend the reaches of a singular color, others stage their contrast as the artist allows herself to be entirely immersed in process. HEAVY WEATHER is a contemplation of painting as a process of response, the canvas as a space of breath, of paring down surfaces so as to build them back up, and a bold insistence on finding places of respite and repose.

Isaac Essex, July 2025.



TRANSFORMATION 2025
oil on canvas
68 x 60 inches



A MOMENT 2025
oil on canvas
22 x 22 inches



VERDIGRIS 2025
oil on canvas
15 x 15 inches



SATISFACTION
oil on wood panel
16 x 16 inches



RETURNING 2025
oil on canvas
30 x 30 inches



RUCKUS 2025
oil on wood panel
16 x 16 inches



DENSE FOG 2025
oil on canvas
30 x 22 inches



EXTRA CALM 2025
oil on canvas
30 x 30 inches



WAXING MOON 2024
oil on canvas
30 x 30 inches



RED TIDE RECEDING 2024
oil on wood
14 x 14 inches



APRIL WEATHER 2024
oil on wood
14 x 14 inches



A GOOD DAY 2025
oil on canvas
30 x 30 inches