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2017 Annual Guide



**Art Collector Maine's
guide to the state's
most collectable artists**



JULIE HOUCK

As a contemporary landscape painter working in oils and encaustics, Julie aspires to convey not only the scene but also the moment and mood. The moment is fleeting, but the painting allows us to live in that moment a bit longer, to linger, to reflect, to contemplate, to enjoy. She is inspired by the interplay of light on the landscape, which is ever elusive and always changing. Painting softly allows her the opportunity to recreate that one particular special moment when the land, light, and atmosphere seamlessly fuse. Reflecting a serendipitous moment in time can be, a deceptively slow and deliberate process, however. Both of the media she prefers, oils and encaustic, involve applying layers upon layers of paint. And even though encaustic, painting with hot pigment-colored wax, is known as an especially process-intensive medium, every layer spontaneously changes the piece, so it evolves over time with a life of its own. Julie says she finds this element of working intriguing. Simultaneously, her work in oils is highly influenced by her early classical training—particularly the study of light on form. Each landscape is painted in transparent layers, sometimes up to 40 layers of paint, in order to recreate the subtle play of light on the landscape as well as to control incremental changes in tonality. As an artist, she approaches each painting believing that it is not enough to paint the literal view. Her goal, she says, is to also capture the essence of the landscape and hopefully connect the viewer viscerally to that place and time.

***Sky Riot*, oil on linen, 8" x 8"**