

## For Immediate Release

**Cynthia Ona Innis**

***Glint***

**12 March – 7 May 2022**

**Opening Reception: Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 7:00pm**

Walter Maciel Gallery is pleased to present *Glint* by Cynthia Ona Innis. Installed in all four galleries, the exhibition includes mixed media acrylic paintings on canvas, panel and paper and is accompanied by a catalog with an essay by Jody Zellen.

Unlike earlier series of work that were influenced by a specific region or place, the new work emerges from memories throughout Innis's life brought on by the unexpected, fractured and disjointed years of the ongoing pandemic. Feelings of isolation spent in lockdown with an inherent longing to be outside became the focus. The paintings and works on paper draw from the natural environment, specifically coastal California's distinctive light, dramatic landscape, ever-changing geology and diverse weather as catalyst. Being separated from nature without the freedom to explore new environments, Innis took the opportunity to investigate and research natural phenomena combining her past experience with locale to become the driving force for these mixed media works. The shift in process, palette and materials reflects the adjustments felt by many in a time marked by great personal and collective loss. Innis reconstructed the many observations of her home state with sharp clarity and the unmistakable veil that memory and reflection lends. The resulting body of work represents a return to a place that no longer exists and the unfurling of an expanding reminiscence.

The complexity of Innis's work results from composed and manipulated materials that depict natural manifestations and spontaneous juxtapositions found in different landscapes. She often begins with painting and staining fabrics with bleach to remove color or acrylic paint and ink to add. In some places the painted areas are dense and saturated with texture on the surface while in others the pigments seep, expand, splash and drip. The painted fabrics include canvas, nylon, velvet and silver lamé that are cut into strips and reassembled to create striated compositions. The bands of textiles are offset creating fragmented forms that mimic the kinetic energy of natural processes like the movement of tectonic plates and the ever shifting layers of terrain as well as the changing conditions of light. Both machine sewn and imbedded in layers of paint, these discontinuous areas of surface suspend and intertwine different moments by bringing together congruent and contrasting sections much like the remnants of experiences, separated by time and definition. The disjunction of forms also allows for multiple perspectives at once, simultaneously capturing the seen and unseen, what is above and below ground, what is ahead and what is behind.

Innis received her BA in Art Practice from the University of California, Berkeley and her MFA from Rutgers University in New Jersey. She is currently included in the exhibition, *Landscape through the Eyes of Abstraction* at the California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks. In 2020, a solo show of Innis's work was presented as a virtual exhibition (due to Covid19) in the *Currents Gallery* at the Monterey Museum of Art. She was one of four artist included in the show, *Gem State* at the Sun Valley Museum of Art that same year. Her work has been featured in other important exhibitions including *Plus 2/Pix from 122* at PS122 in New York; *Art and Activism: Drawing the Line* at the Children's Museum of the Arts in New York; *NextNewPaper* at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art; and *Selections: The Intuitionists* at The Drawing Center in New York among others. Innis is a recipient of

the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund grant, Parent Artist Residency Award at Kala Art Institute and a Sustainable Arts Foundation grant. Public collections include the Art in Embassies Program in Riga, Latvia; Achenbach Collection in San Francisco; Berkeley Art Museum Pacific Film Archive; San Jose Museum of Art; Crocker Art Museum, County of Alameda, California; City of Lafayette, California; Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, California.