

## Statement

In the past my paintings were developed from on-site observation, from photographs and from memory. With this new series I take on the image as it lives in my imagination. When I do draw on memory of particular places they are, at times, fragmented and rely on emotional recall.

Sometimes I envisage a world filled with danger tempered by a small attempt at whimsy. If, as deKooning asserted, “Content is a glimpse of something, an encounter...” then I seem to be expressing a wariness of the world as I “encounter” it in these images. Doubtlessly, the social climate as well the unsettled environmental changes we are living through have a large influence on this. Just as we do not live in a vacuum, we do not create in one. I am encouraged, however, by the persistence of beauty and balance, which seems to co-exist with its opposite in equal measure.

My paintings are done in the studio and are usually preceded by charcoal drawings. The boundaries between drawing and painting are fluid, and I feed off the energy of the graphic line and its expressive possibilities.

*Iris Osterman*