



Field: Linkage, 1990, oil on linen, four panels, 24 1/4 x 96 3/4 inches

Warren Rohrer: *Passages in White Light*

Oct 6 - Nov. 11, 2017

Opening Reception: Friday, October 6th 5:30 - 7:30

Dating from the 1970s through early 1990s, Warren Rohrer's "white" paintings present a facet of the artist's mature work focused on the fusion of light and matter through paint. His atmospheric abstractions with series titles such as *White Shift*, *White Drift*, and *Passage*, respond to continuously shifting light conditions and the perceptual effects of seasonal cycles and changes in the landscape.

Though in dialogue with precedents including Robert Rauschenberg's *White Paintings* from 1951 and contemporaneous experimentations by the Minimalist artist Robert Ryman, Rohrer's "white" paintings are not monochromatic and are hardly white at all. In his work, the Pennsylvania painter analyzed the natural colors of flora he picked up on walks in the Wissahickon woods and fields in Lancaster county, as well as flecks of white bark, snow-covered branches, and spontaneous patterns in nature. Often using tiny repetitive strokes across wide swaths of canvas, Rohrer's idiosyncratic yet systematic method of mark-making tracks infinitesimal variations of light and incremental shifts in the surface and texture of his paintings. White becomes not a color itself per se but a conduit for color to emerge and move through the field of vision.

[continued on reverse]





Small White Drift
1978
oil on linen
14 x 14 inches

Warren Rohrer (American, 1927-1995) was a renowned figure in the painting and teaching community in Philadelphia beginning in the late 1960s. A survey of his paintings at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 2003 was a reassessment of his singular approach to abstraction, informed by his deeply rooted agricultural heritage. A 2016 monograph authored by philosopher and critic David Carrier is the most complete record of his oeuvre to date. Rohrer's paintings are in the permanent collections of the Denver Art Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Phillips Collection, among others.

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