

## CURATORIAL STATEMENT

While the theme of *place* is certainly palpable in Jodi Hays' work, notions of the *non-place* and *exile* push to the forefront with equal force. The spaces Hays depicts are not those of home and habitation, but rather that of temporality, upheaval, and exclusion. In a 1951 essay titled *Moderation and Excess*, Albert Camus wrote, "We all carry within us our places of exile, our crimes, our ravages." In these works, Hays employs physical space as a metaphor for the psychological spaces we navigate. Instances of internal transmutations, our 'places of exile' carried within, manifest in the diurnal imagery found among the transitioning urban landscape.

In a controlled confrontation, Hays rejects a potential casting-out by bravely exploring these forbidding places and charting them with methodical precision. The subdued color-palette is interrupted by sparing and staccato points of bold color, offering a brand of optimism that transcends the bleak landscape. These painted points bear a similarity to Roland Barthes' notion of the *punctum* in photography: that detail in an image which 'pierces the viewer.' Divergent areas of organic line puncture each tightly geometric work and act as a respite from the stark spaces. The undulating errs in precision and the spontaneity of linear direction whisper the implication of a human presence.

*Sara Estes*

*Curator*

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Eudora Welty wrote about place as a thing that has influenced, nourished, and instructed us. She further writes, “man can...suffer if he’s exiled from it. [Place is] as close to our living as the earth we can pick up and rub between our fingers, something we can feel or smell.”

I leverage images one might associate with marking transitions or temporal site—construction fences, festoons, caution tape. The work’s constant thread is an inquiry into how quotidian images, through the language of painting, can explore personal circumstance and transcend themselves, a kind of “aesthetic redemption.”

*Jodi Hays*