

JEFFREY THOMAS

FINE ART

JEFF CARPENTER

Jeff Carpenter uses memories and a combination of moments within memories to make paintings that induce a momentary wobble of perception. If you daydream a memory of a wonderful day it's rarely just one "snapshot" that you summon, it's many images - the full panorama, the light in her eyes, the wind in the leaves - all layered one on top of each other. The real pleasure in conjuring up the memory is not in any one part as it is in slipping through the images. Carpenter pursues that subconscious effect; combining images in a way that tricks the mind to flicking from one image to the next, back and forth, a mental flickering that is slightly beyond our control. It's art that induces a momentary wobble of perception – it triggers the subconscious, making us the projector in a cerebral movie, capturing those ineffable moments of our lives that defy words, that can best be summoned visually.

"Every one of us has experienced, in dreaming, or daydreaming, or perhaps in poetry, imaginary ways of seeing a narrative. There are connections between things and aspects of our lives that cannot be well described rationally, a kind of beauty that doesn't usually appear in our day-to-day consciousness, except by surprise, but that provides a different and equally important way of perceiving our lives. These impressions may be sparked anew, like a déjà vu, by imagery that resonates in that same archetypal way. It's important to remain aware of this other way of seeing, this language of the imagination; it helps us to expand the way in which we live, because the definitions by which we live are themselves the product of the cultural imaginary."

