



Slate Gallery

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## *Continental Drift*

### **New Paintings by Dorothy Robinson**

**Exhibition Dates: May 8 – June 14, 2009**

**Reception: Friday, May 8, 2009 from 6 - 9 pm, artist will be present**

Slate Gallery proudly presents Dorothy Robinson's *Continental Drift*, a solo exhibition of new abstract paintings inspired by the beauty of landscapes, their underlying geographic processes and physics. Shown are five large and one medium size oil paintings in which the artist continues to explore landscape through the language of paint as a metaphor for the human condition.

*Continental Drift* refers to invisible forces beyond our control that nonetheless shape our lives. The series took shape in the summer of 2008, where, as an artist-in-residence at the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts in Ithaca, NY, Robinson continued to search for ways to explore and express her interests in geomorphology and physics while observing the country's uncertain political climate, as well as the beginnings of the global economic collapse. This theme of uncertainty and the illusory nature of *terra firma*, continued to emerge over the past winter during a residency at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts in Amherst, VA, and inspired the painting *Upper Crust*. According to Robinson, "my life has been shaped less by periods of stability than abrupt endings and painful beginnings. As a result, landscape painting for me is not about the arrangement of forms into a single point perspective, but about the experience of moving through a world in motion." With her vocabulary of expressive gestures and sensuous color, Dorothy Robinson has created a dramatic and sublime new body of work.

While earning a degree in geography from UC, Berkeley in the late 1970s, Robinson worked in the university's space sciences lab, where she created photographic images from satellite data. Falling in love with these brand-new images of earth and the act of making pictures led Robinson to change direction in her career, culminating in her earning an MFA in painting from UC, Berkeley in the early 1990s. After several years of showing on the West Coast and traveling abroad through awards and grants, Robinson moved to New York City in 2004 on a year long residency from the Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation. In 2008 she received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant and a summer fellowship at the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts in Ithaca, NY. This year she had a residency at the Virginia Center for Creative Art, Amherst, VA. She has been an Artist-in-Residence at the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts in Manhattan since 2006.