

## *Abstracted Landscapes* by Rob Vander Zee Philip Morton Gallery, July 2011

**June 23, 2011 – PHILIP MORTON GALLERY** is pleased to announce *Abstracted Landscapes*, an exhibition by Rob Vander Zee. Appearing both mysterious and ethereal, these new interpretations of the abstracted landscape offer the viewer a visual journey into the depths of the natural world.

Drawing on childhood memories, Vander Zee guides us on a walk through the woods and renews our own memories of nature's movement and vibration. Through these paintings a parallel world is created, a distillation of memories and dreams that combines reality and fantasy. "I am continually introducing myself to places that I have not yet seen, but yet resonate somewhere in my imagination."

The initial strokes on the canvas create a disturbance that sets the painting into motion. The paint application visually mimics the process of shifting, cracking, hardening, and crumbling of earth, water, mud, and rock. Like nature itself, each layer of glaze and paint seems to demand another. They build, simultaneously masking and revealing old and new possibilities.

Vander Zee uses a complex layering system of oil glazes to achieve surfaces that offer both depth and luminosity. These glazes trap light in between their layers which give each painting the feeling that it glows from within. His surfaces often have the feel of liquid pools of paint, allowing ephemeral figures to emerge and dissipate into the watery atmosphere.

Vander Zee's goal is to create paintings that feel as if they are still shifting, changing, and moving through time. "I have no intention to replicate the world as it is, but rather, as it could be; with infinite and sometimes bizarre possibilities."

### **About the Artist**

Vander Zee's paintings are exhibited in Estonia, Copenhagen, and around the U.S. His most recent series, "Visions of Paradise" is traveling the United States, beginning at the Pensacola Museum of Art in Pensacola, Florida the paintings will be exhibited at the William King Museum in Abingdon, VA. His work is quickly finding its way into many private collections throughout the country. Collectors from Florida to California, Massachusetts, Maryland and the District of Columbia, as well as abroad, recognize the rare quality of Rob Vander Zee's talent.

Rob Vander Zee exhibits and lectures at many venues, sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for art. He is exceptionally passionate about painting taking every opportunity to share his enthusiasm with others. In the spring of 2006, he opened the Vander Zee School of Painting in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. The school is geared to students who are serious about becoming professional artists.

As much as Rob loves to teach, his true passion lies in the painting process. "I get lost in my paintings and can stay there for hours creating, layering, and allowing the painting to have a life of its own."