Bromfield Gallery

Daniel Feldman
Specific Gravity
April 4 – April 29, 2018

Artist's Statement

Each of these digital paintings begins on a foundation of several photo images. I combine and manipulate those in Photoshop generating other images. Throughout the process the developing work also calls for painterly moves. It's that mix, the whole way through: digital manipulations that boil down to untold calculations involving pixels, together with digital painting that might about as easily have been done in oil or acrylic.

In this digital process, the chronological trace of every step and every choice is preserved. Every past state of the work remains a potential stepping-off point (unlike the process of creating an oil or acrylic painting, where the present state of the work is always the only starting point, the only platform, for the next step). The resulting groundswell of possible choices and currents creates the overwhelming sense of an ocean, a feeling of the sublime. I like that feeling. Decision-making floats on a raft of intuition.

The path of each work entails lots of curious wandering, countless detours, diving, and surprises. Every image, the result of each past step, rises or sinks in the ocean, emerging or receding relative to the surface. In the end, the constituent images range from largely apparent to hardly discernible.

What each finished work brings to its encounters is entirely the result of the process above but at the same time utterly distinct from it. I'm fascinated by this disjunction at the heart of the work — the opposite of expressionism; I want myself to be transcended in the works, unrecognizable. But, like the underlying photo images, I am and am not.