

Cityscapes

Lynn Sondag Watercolors

July 1, 2020 – TBD

Avenue 12 Gallery is proud to present: ***Cityscapes***
Lynn Sondag Watercolors

If the title of this exhibition, *Cityscapes*, suggests panoramic views from San Francisco's towers, the subject matter of Lynn Sondag's lyrical watercolors, is more bucolic. Sondag focuses on the northwest quadrant of San Francisco where she lives, and, to use John Muir's terminology, saunters, with an observant eye. San Francisco—ineffaceably dubbed The City by San Francisco Chronicle columnist Herb Caen—is still a walker's town, and these paintings reflect the artist's strolls around the Richmond District, Lake Street, Sea Cliff, The Presidio, Mountain Lake Park, Crissy Field, and Baker Beach.

Sondag, a professor of art at Dominican University, grew up in the Midwest, and brings her love of nature to the Bay Area, famously rich in natural beauty and distinctive architecture. While the viewpoint of the paintings and their fresh immediacy suggest a *plein-air*, on-site painting practice, Sondag works from reference photographs, reconstructing the scenes in her studio. But there is nothing photorealistic about her loose, atmospheric renderings which seem to record her feelings about the scene as much as the facts of weather, architecture and foliage.

If photography serves as Sondag's sketch book, the sense of place must surely be recorded in the artists' visual memory. While watercolor is the perfect medium for recording color effects and spontaneity, it is not forgiving; it is inherently not amenable to correction or adjustment, demanding decisiveness, experience and a vision or, in Sondag's case, an interpretive "emotion [to be] recollected in tranquility."

San Franciscans are likely to have a strong affinity for Sondag's evocative pictorial tone poems of our beloved peninsular paradise, which capture meteorology and mood more completely than any of the artist's photographs must manage to do. The camera never lies, but it's only a machine. Sondag's atmospheric paintings of sky overarching the domestic landscape may remind you of Turner, and her architectural renderings may suggest Hopper as an antecedent or ancestor, but these art-historical resonances attest to a shared sensibility that finds visual analogues for feeling available to the attentive, transparent, Emersonian observer.

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Lynn Sondag ***Lake Street April 2020***
2020 Watercolor on paper 16" x 12"



Lynn Sondag ***Lake District 16th Avenue***
2020 Watercolor on paper 11" x 16"