

Michael Haykin, Distinguished Artist in Residence, February

Water, water is everywhere in Michael Haykin's luminous new show of paintings and assemblages, "Sea Level," at Lucky Street Gallery, starting with a reception to meet the artist on Thursday, Feb. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. Haykin has also been honored as one of the two distinguished artists in residence at The Studios of Key West for 2012. He will teach a class at TSKW and plans to hold a critique/ social hour with his students at Lucky Street before his show ends on Feb. 13.

Haykin is a former Key West resident who now keeps homes in Arizona and Montana. His biography is filled with references to first-rank museums and galleries in Florida, New York, Michigan, Montana and Arizona, including the Helander Gallery in Palm Beach, Works Gallery in Southampton, Limbo and the Holly Solomon galleries in New York City. He has had numerous one-man shows at Lucky Street since the 1980s. A graduate of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, he has traveled extensively throughout the South Pacific, and North and South America. The influence of those travels is evident in his work.

Haykin has been called "one of the most refreshing and compelling realist painters today," by Robert Knight, executive director of the Tucson Museum of Art, "His canvases appeal to lovers of contemporary abstraction as well as those whose inclinations tilt toward traditional realism ... his paintings are filled with images drawn from explorations of the artist's inner narrative and personal mythology."

Work for this show ranges from small shimmering canvases of light on water and light through water to larger multipart canvases that draw the viewer into a world of glinting translucency built up from microlayers of pigment.

In addition to paintings, Haykin will display assemblages, pieces of metal he has found during his daily walks in the desert hills around his Tucson home. The artist has embellished these beautiful objects with brilliant abstract designs, some small enough to occupy a niche, others big enough to take up a wall. His paintings give the sense of petroglyphs or hieroglyphs.

The public is invited to meet Michael Haykin at the opening reception on Thursday, Feb. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the gallery's new location, 540 Greene St.