

JULIA THAXTON

WATCHING PAINT DRY



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The painting process can't be rushed. Paint dries at its own pace. The surface tension alters gradually, minute fluctuations in translucence and reflectivity. The changes are addictive, holding fast my attention as I wait. Watching for the moment to intervene. The anticipation of what will be, the lure of a new outcome.

There's a dance between time painting and time waiting. Judging when to resist the impulse to interfere, when to succumb and make an adjustment. The painting itself is mercurial, derailing initial plans almost immediately, but in doing so revealing new possibilities. The promise of resolution asks for constant attention: a solution may be glimpsed and lost again in barely a stroke.

These paintings are made from water-based materials, with sand and stone dust added to the pigment: Portland stone, Vendée sand, limestone, quartz, granite, schist. The fragments create banks and channels for the water to dictate and distort the movement of the paint. It is the interplay of pigment, stone and water that shapes the image.

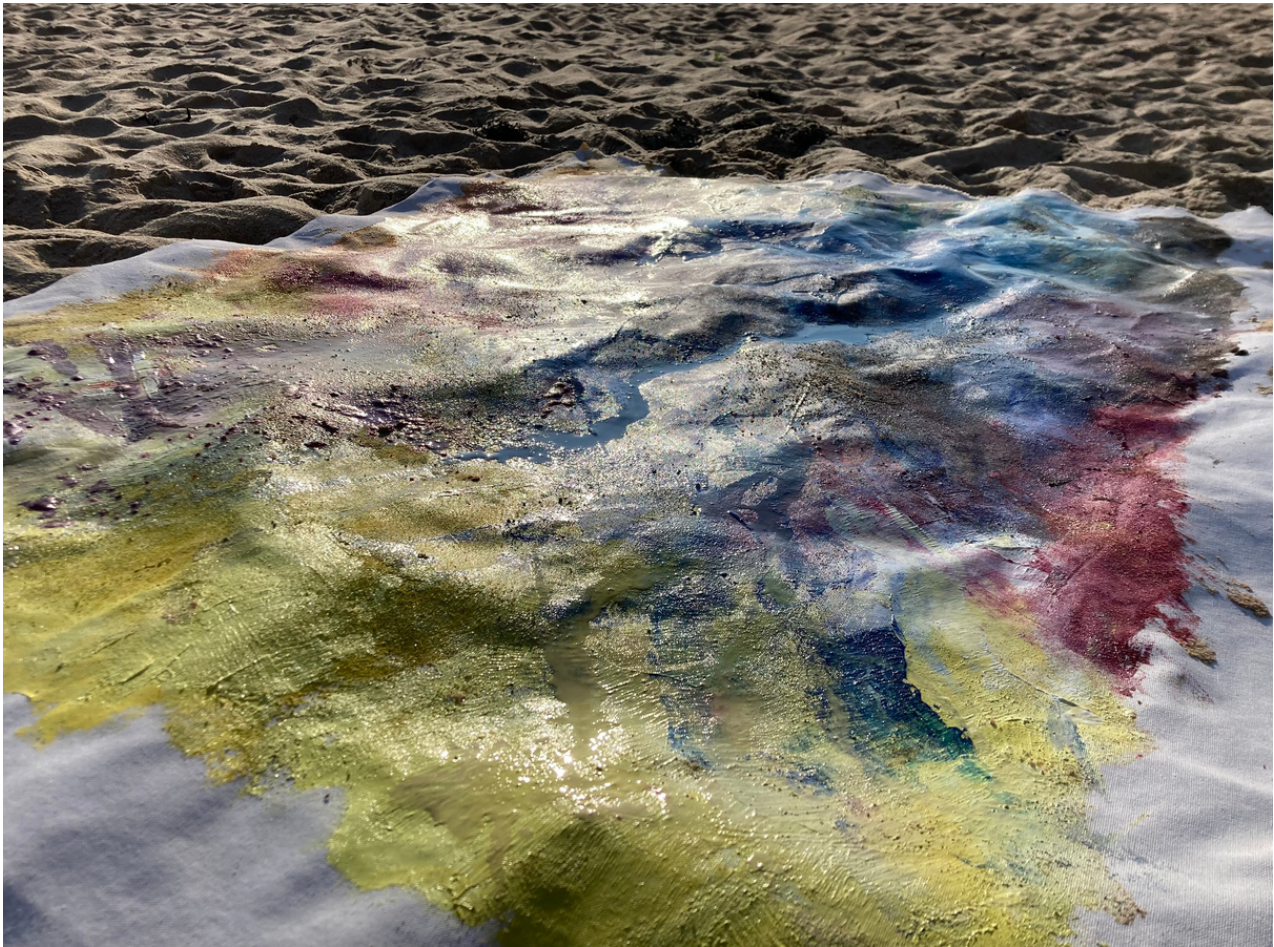
These images are close up details from the process. The attentive wait. A vigil. Watching paint dry.







North Shore



First Light



Shell Line





Ripple







Ferruginous







Deep Blue



Shell Line



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