

## Time for Reflection

IN RALPH WICKISER'S paintings, fluid water takes on tangible geometric form. The Illinois-born, Art Institute of Chicago-trained painter began his career as a representational artist in the '30s, embraced Ab-Ex in the '50s and '60s, and melded the two in the '70s and after. In his "Reflected Stream" series, Wickiser depicts shallow bodies of water with varying degrees of abstraction—less so, during the series' early years between 1975–85, and more so between 1985–98. The



more representational canvases, such as *Fall Reflections*, an oil on linen painting from 1978, reveal a three-pronged

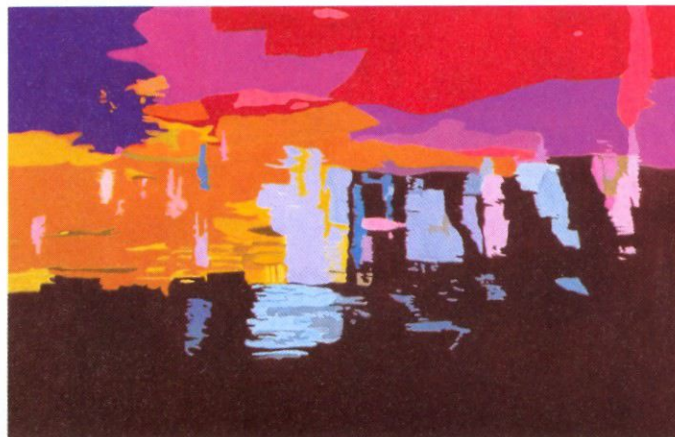
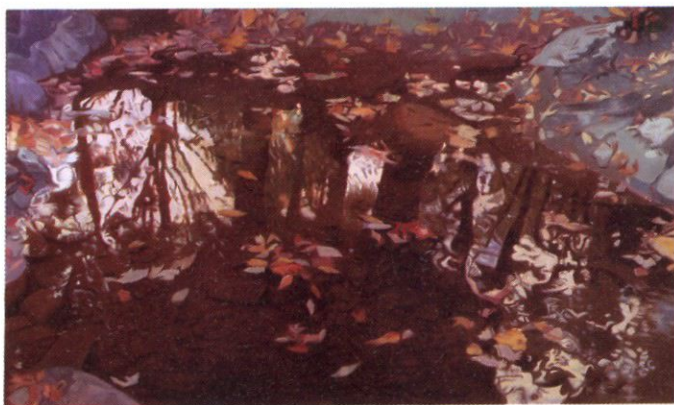
subject—what lies beneath the water, the detritus and spots of light on the water's surface, and the landscape reflected in the water. Later

paintings, such as *Dark River Bottom*, heavily abstract the interplay of light, reflection, and shadow in vivid colors, as if the aquatic landscape were under infrared light.

With the exhibition "The Reflected Stream: The Abstract Years 1985–1998" at the Walter Wickiser Gallery (April 2–27), these later abstract paintings come to Manhattan. Wickiser's work has been on view around the country this past year, with "Ralph L. Wickiser: A Ret-



rospective" at the Leepa Ratner Museum at St. Petersburg College until February 7 and "Ralph L. Wickiser: A Retrospective, 1975–1998" running at Georgetown University's Spagnuolo Art Gallery through April 3.



## ExpoExcels

ArtExpo New York returns to Pier 94 on New York's Far West Side, from April 14–17. This year's show will host more than 400 exhibitors showcasing original prints, paintings, drawings, sculpture, photography, ceramics, giclee, lithographs, glass works, and more. ArtExpo 2016 includes three shows under one roof: ArtExpo New York, the world's largest fine art trade show; Solo, highlighting established and emerging independent artists; and Foto Solo, featuring fine art photography from contemporary and realist photographers. ArtExpo, now in its 38th year, is the largest gathering of international trade buyers and also offers a host of events and activities from educational seminars on topics such as art and the economy to live entertainment.

