

I am an artist whose work is grounded in the perceptual-based, realist tradition. My goal is to translate the visible, bodily space I inhabit, into a 2-dimensional, illusionistic representation. In dealing with the intricacies and challenges of working from observation, I am able, through the sustained experience of intense, visual scrutiny, to understand and know the world around me. The results are paintings, which are dense and subtle, revealing the specific nuances of color, light, and form.

My most recent series of paintings and drawings depict the ever-changing landscape of post-industrial Brooklyn. I have a studio in the rapidly changing Gowanus section, where the Gowanus Canal once served as a lifeline for New York's teeming industry. As the industry moved out, the canal became a remnant of the area's pollution and environmental neglect. The stark forms and grittiness of the area reveal hidden gems of color and pattern. I'm attracted to the decaying structures, the muted and worn-out colors. By painting this area, not only am I documenting the rapidly changing landscape, but working towards the renewal of it; finding beauty and elegance in a place most people tend to avoid.

Francis Sills

2010