

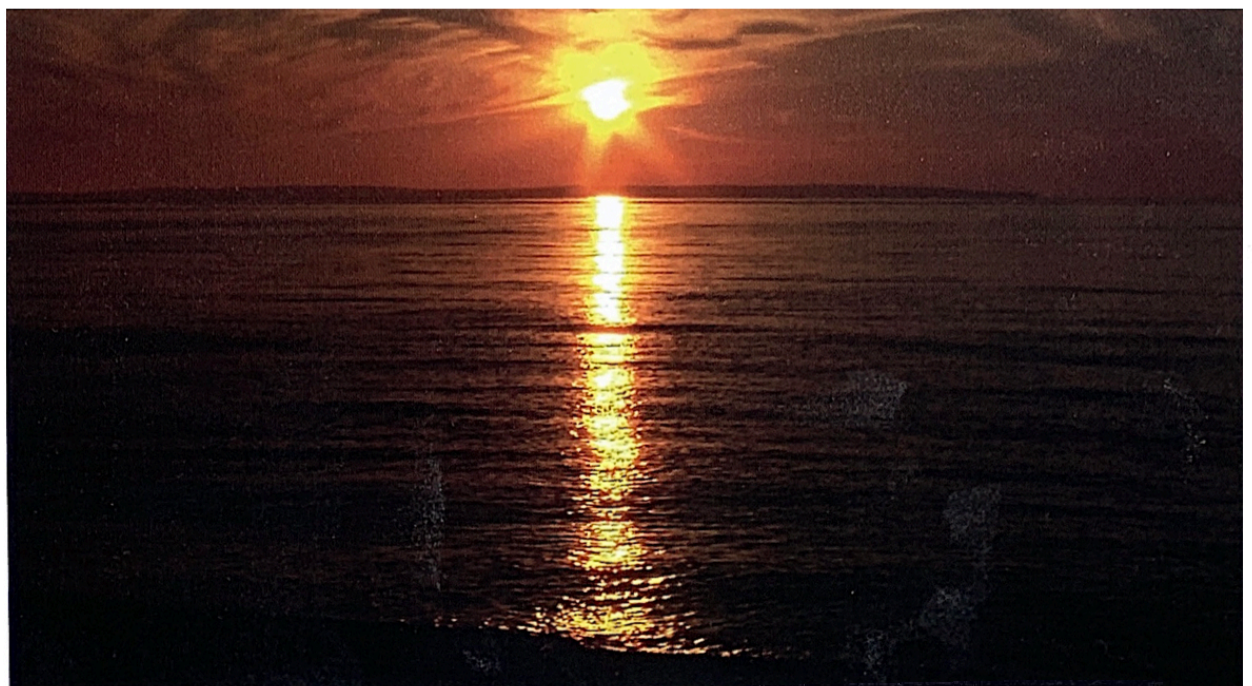
Installation view from the exhibition **Revolution** at Alfedena Gallery, Chicago in 2007
Watch over the Temple, 2006, (left) oil on 48 panels, 60" x 120", **Watch over the Water**, 2006, (right) oil on 24 panels, 60" x 120"

Introduction

In The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde wrote, "Nothing can cure the soul but the senses... just as nothing can cure the senses but the soul." It is said that the most evocative of our five senses in conjuring memory is the sense of smell, and that the loss of hearing is the most socially isolating loss of a sense. But for many it is the sense of sight that is the most compelling, and sight is not possible without light. Beyond defining form, light can affect mood, the psyche, even physical well-being for those who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder brought on by light deprivation. Ben Whitehouse is concerned with the subtleties of light, its abilities to conceal as well as to reveal, light as a natural phenomenon that is also affected by human devices, light as experience, light as contemplation. This is not new -- Whitehouse sees his practice as a continuation of the plein air traditions that date back to the 18th century. But what is new is the systemized study manifest in both the artist's painted panel installations and in his 24-hour real-time video "paintings." Both require patience and study to unfold and reveal, and provide a contemplation on our place in the world and our sense of the world as defined by the changes in light.

Our thanks to the artist, his assistant, Mathew Bennett, and to John Brunetti and Alfedena Gallery for helping make this exhibition possible.

Michael Watts
 Director
 Tarble Arts Center



COVER IMAGE
Watch over the Water, 2006
 oil on 24 panels, 60" x 120"

Revolution: Lake Michigan, 2007, digital video presented in real time, 24 hours