

Bart Gulley grew up in Manhattan where he was exposed firsthand to museums, and to modern architecture and design of the 50s and 60s. In his 40-year career as a painter and graphic designer he has drawn from all three practices in order to extend the American vernacular.

Bart's early focus was on landscape painting and figure drawing which instilled [in him] a fascination with spatial representation. Later moving to abstraction he explored structural continuity with the earlier work, playing optically with figure and ground, architecture and space, color and spacial perception, resulting in a kind of dimensional geography that is executed with restraint and precision. The visual delight of urban phenomena overlaps the rural. In this, there is discontinuity. His paintings are of this world, of this time. Visually bold, they are mannerist in scope. Unexpected compositions are characterized by strong contrasts and abrupt juxtapositions of shape, scale and material. He says, "Chance plays a role. too. I make new discoveries without predetermined outcomes. This direct approach ultimately serves a highly deliberative image in which one image is lost in order to find another. The result weds intuited sensation to analytical intention."

Bart notes that an underlying consistency underpins his work. "I'm interested in how relationships get set up. I'm interested in the language that's created in the interaction between process and intent. My primary purpose is to make abstract works that resemble the concrete - that have an essential physical force."

Critic Dominique Nahas says: "Gulley's attention to the phenomenal and the analytical permeates his thought and process, and emerges as one of his signature aesthetic strategies. By uncovering structural relationships between oppositional qualities that are felt simultaneously, he creates internal landscapes and geometries that derive from the real, but rely upon multiple viewpoints ... There is nothing casual in Gulley's work; his paintings make manifest a stringent mindfulness in which fastidious buoyancy, unexpected flexibility and lightness of being become imminent."

Bart Gulley has exhibited throughout the US and is represented in hundreds of private collections. He has received grants from Skowhegan, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and The Millay Colony for the Arts. Bart has a BFA from Pratt Institute and an MFA from Queens College, NY, where he studied with Robert Pincus-Witten. He taught painting and drawing at Parsons in the 1990s and has taught privately since moving to Chatham, NY, where his studio is a large restored barn.