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Color As Time - Migration As Clock
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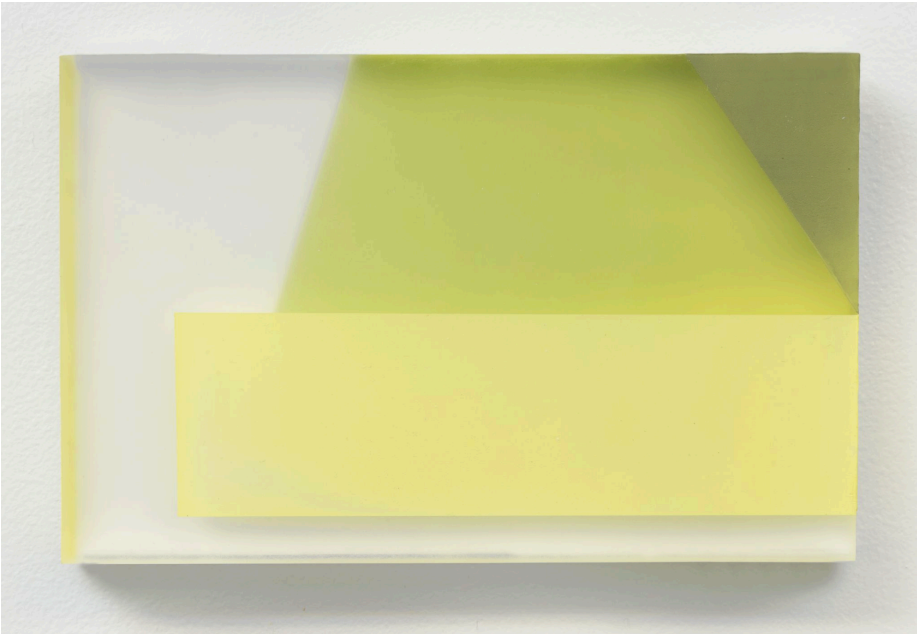
Debra Ramsay

Artist Statement:

I have studied Josef Albers's writings and work samples on color theory. During a two-month residency at the Albers Foundation in Bethany, CT, in 2016, I developed methods for working on clear acrylic supports that allow colors to interact with shifting light, altering their hue and temperature more dynamically than on an opaque surface. I have also been strongly influenced by the conceptual work of John Cage. Combining these influences, I examine color change over time in a specific location as a means to visualize time—landscape as four seasons, a range of hue shifts.

As I collect color from a place across months and years, I am reminded of Albers's statement speaking about the profound harmony in the immeasurable spectrum of color "Independent of harmony rules, any color 'goes' or 'works' with any other color, presupposing that their quantities are appropriate."

Continuing this color-as-time exploration, an ongoing series of abstract paintings captures the plumage colors of migratory birds in Central Park, NYC, over the course of a year. Each species spends a predictable interval in the park twice annually while seeking food and nesting sites. The paintings accurately render each bird's color palette while suggesting distinctive characteristics such as plumage patterns. In collaboration with nature, I take note of the evolving cycle of migration; the series acknowledges the fragile state of our environment; each painting functions as a tribute to a species and a reminder of the delicate balance that sustains life.



Debra Ramsay, *Painted Bunting, female*, acrylic on cast acrylic, 5.25 x 8.25 x .75 inches, 2023



Painted Bunting - Female/Immature Male
Photo © Lloyd Davis; Cornell Lab of Ornithology | Macaulay Library

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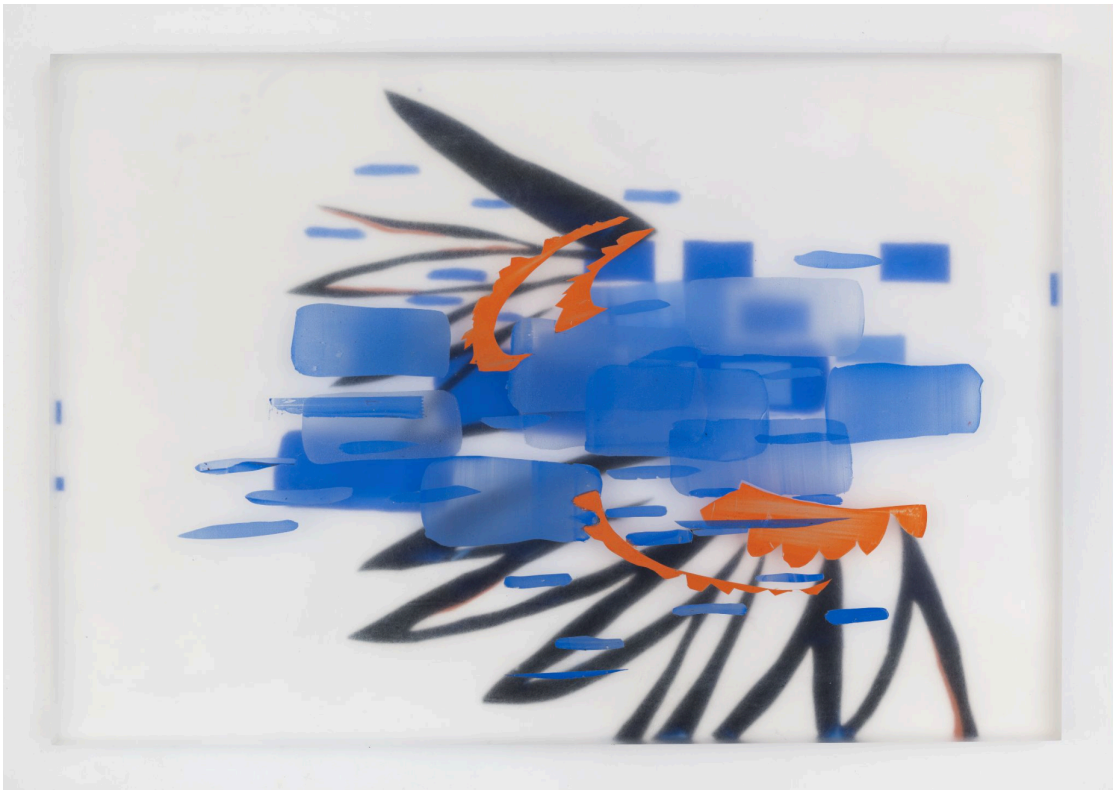


Debra Ramsay, *Painted Bunting, male,* acrylic on cast acrylic, 5.25 x 8.25 x .75 inches, 2023



Painted Bunting - Adult Male
Photo © David Hollie; Cornell Lab of Ornithology | Macaulay Library

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Debra Ramsay, *Blue Grosbeak*, acrylic on cast acrylic panel, 7.25 x 12.25 x .75 inches, 2025



Blue Grosbeak- Breeding Male
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Debra Ramsay, *Louisiana Waterthrush*, acrylic on cast acrylic panel 12.25 x 7.25 x .75 inches



Louisiana Waterthrush
Photo © Julian Gottfried; Cornell Lab of Ornithology | Macaulay Library

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Debra Ramsay, *Grasshopper Sparrow,* 8.25 x 7.25 x .75 inches, acrylic on cast acrylic, 2025



Grasshopper Sparrow
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