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Jeannie Motherwell

Artist Statement Having lived on Cape Cod Bay for most of my summers, my work is influenced by the constantly changing landscape that surrounds me, and — when not within hearing distance of the waves lapping or crashing onshore — by the images of celestial phenomena as seen from the Hubble telescope in outer space. I am amazed by the images and mysteries of the oceans and skies in changing weather, Hubble-type images of the universe, and my own physicality during the painting process. It has inspired my paintings, which have an intimacy to the space in them but also an immensity.

The process I use and the mere physicality of it help me explore spatial complexities that yield marvelous surprises, taking me in directions I cannot anticipate. There are things that happen in my paintings that I cannot explain. I may try to control them while working, but I am really searching for answers to make the unexpected work for me. It is about exploring the unknown and then refining it to reflect a visceral memory or experience — for me and for the viewer. I like to think of my paintings as an 'event' or an 'occurrence'; that is, an action that emerges in the here and now — where the subject matter symbolizes the images and mysteries of creation.