

# Laurence Steenbergen



*Cats and Trees* Acrylic on Canvas Panel 27.5" X 20"

**C**olor and curvilinear line formulate sumptuously intoxicating, puzzle-like compositions in **Laurence Steenbergen's** paintings. Created as they are by a professional photographer, these piercingly penetrating works betray an insistent urge to find the soul of a subject. Shapes — distorted, rounded, circular or jaggedly pointed — articulate a shrill, explosive beauty through simple yet elegant brushwork. Inspired by life's joys and sorrows, Steenbergen's intriguing, rasping texture speaks to the contradictory and complex nature of everyday life. Correspondingly, the artist abstracts the natural world, teasing a poetic exquisiteness from the common and familiar. With a Matisse-like black line and de Kooning-esque use of space, Steenbergen admires Van Gogh's ability to transcend the banal and electrify canvases in vivaciously expressive color. Spiritedly curious about a myriad of subjects and themes, she collides Western aesthetics with Eastern conceits. "Very often I am inspired by certain combinations of colors, forms or the awareness of something beautiful," says Steenbergen. "It can be a spark in the dark, the form of a chair or tree, a lovely color within dirty colors or a moment of happiness."

A South Korean, raised in the Netherlands, Laurence Steenbergen's works are visual hybrids of Eastern and Western art historical traditions. A photography correspondent for her local paper, the artist lives and works in the Netherlands.

[www.laurences11.jalbum.net](http://www.laurences11.jalbum.net)

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