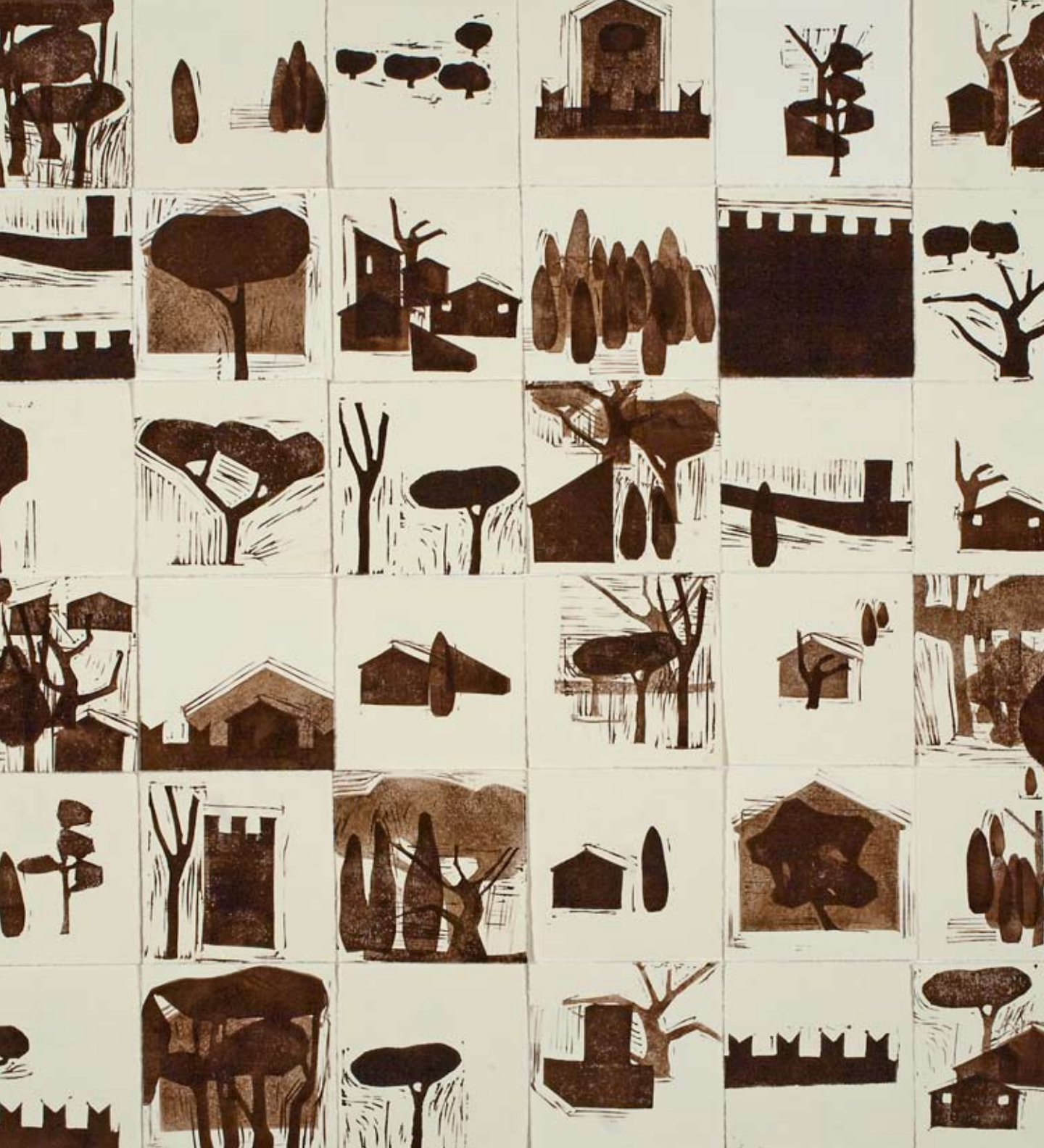




LYALL FORSYTH HARRIS

*REVISITATIONS*

November 6 - 30, 2009



## SECOND NATURE

Tuscany is Lyall's "other" home. It is where she occasionally lives, often visits and always paints. Some artists have the gift of absorbing the spirit—the essence—of the place in which they paint, but Lyall's gift goes beyond simply absorbing. She does something extraordinary in her art. She convenes with Tuscany's bounty of nature and art as if she were coming together with cherished companions—companions who never cease to delight, not only because they always reveal something wondrous, something unsuspected, but also because they perpetually enchant with their haunting, mystical qualities. I look at paintings such as *Cala di Forno* and see Lyall in dialogue with Sieneese masters of the fourteenth century—the Lorenzetti brothers, or perhaps Simone Martini, whose frescoed panoramas of Tuscan landscapes sweep before us in similar perspective; and which convey a similar mood of timelessness. The light-swathed, monolithic forms—natural and man-made—of *Winter Morning* suggest to me that Lyall has engaged the early Renaissance Giotto in conversation about painting with simplifying directness. Not all her painter-companions are so far back in time, though their ways of perceiving shapes and light are in concert. In *Tuscan Village*, the wall in glowing yellow, curving to embrace a lone tree and house might, I think, have been described by the brush of the nineteenth-century Giuseppe Abbati, or maybe Giovanni Fattori. The vision of a file of cypresses and single pine sheltering three buildings (*Radda-in-Chianti*) sparks—for me—the memory of Giorgio Morandi's calm still-lives and landscapes.

Lyall's palette—always joyful, always vibrant—distills the light into tones that range from robust and earth-bound to subdued and lyrical. Through her palette she has widened her circle of painter-companions to include French artists, especially Bonnard. But, after all, Bonnard and his compatriots come from a neighbouring Mediterranean land, where the nature is not so different from that in Italy. And what is art—as they would say in the Renaissance—if not a second nature?

Sabine Eiche

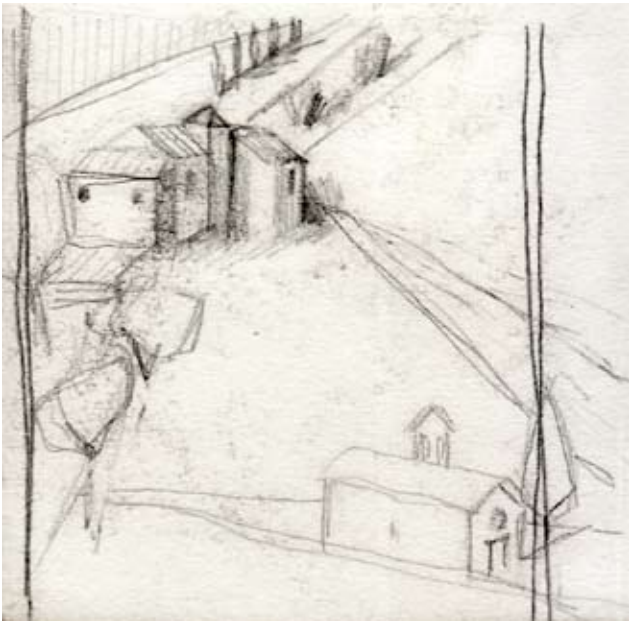
**Sabine Eiche**, PhD (Princeton), MFA (Princeton), MA (Univ. of British Columbia), is a freelance art historian, writer and translator who lived in Florence for over thirty years. She is an authority on sixteenth-century central Italian art and architecture and writes about Italian art, food, and culture ([www.members.shaw.ca/seiche](http://www.members.shaw.ca/seiche)).



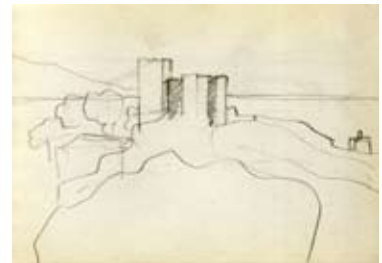
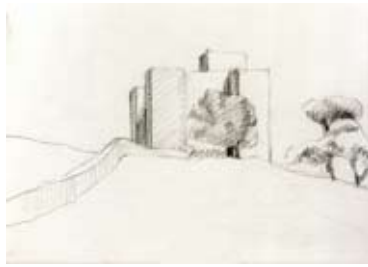
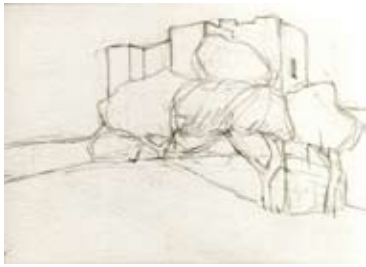
*Radda-in-Chianti*  
2009, oil on canvas, 24 x 24 in.

## REVISITATIONS

In the 90s I lived in Florence, Italy. That experience changed the course of my life. Though I now reside in San Francisco, I have returned to Tuscany many times for extended periods over the last decade. In Italy and California, certain places contain for me combined qualities of mystery, harmony, and longing that I am compelled to revisit, reexamine, repaint. Among these: the Parco dell'Uccellina in Maremma with its medieval towers and coastline, the landscape south of Florence near Radda-in-Chianti, and pockets of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. I go back to these places again and again to paint into the enchantment they hold.



Study for *Radda-in-Chianti*  
2004, pencil on paper, 3 3/4 x 4 in.



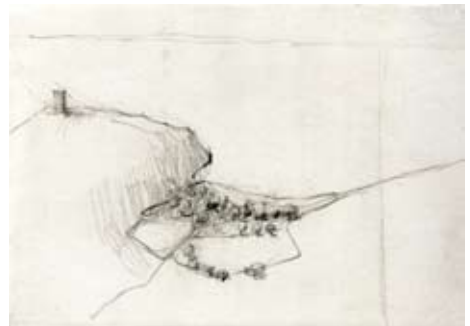
Studies for *Castle, Talamone*, 1997-2009, pencil on paper, 4 x 5 3/4 in. each



*Castle, Talamone*  
2009, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 in.



*Cala di Forno*  
2009, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 in.



Study for *Cala di Forno*, 1997, pencil on paper, 4 x 5 3/4 in.



*Cala di Forno*  
2009, gouache on paper, 15 1/8 x 16 1/4 in.



*Solitude*  
2008, oil on canvas, 12 x 12 in.



Study for *Solitude*, 2008, pencil on paper, 4 x 4 in.



*Tuscan Village*  
2009, oil on linen, 16 x 16 in.



Study for *Tuscan Village*, 1995, pencil on paper, 4 x 3 3/4 in.



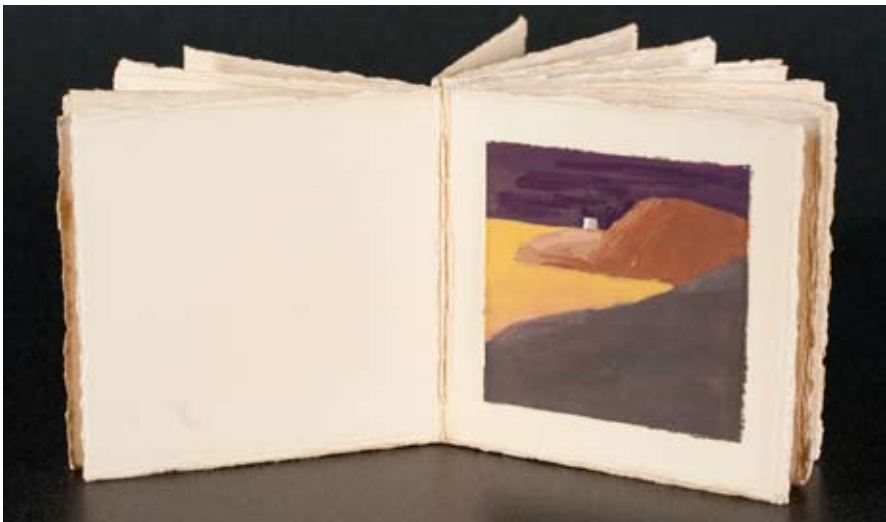
*Golden Gate Park, Speedway Meadow*  
2009, gouache on paper, 18 1/4 x 15 1/8 in.



*Studies for Speedway Meadow*, 2006-2009, pencil on paper, 5 3/4 x 4 in.



*Golden Gate Park*  
2009, gouache on paper, 18 7/8 x 15 1/4 in.



details, *La Torre (The Tower)*  
2007, artist book, 4 x 8 x 4 1/4 in. (opened)  
10 original gouache on paper paintings, 3 x 3 in. each



details, *I Campi (The Fields)*  
2007, artist book, 6 x 15 1/2 x 8 in. (opened)  
18 original ink wash drawings, 4 x 4 7/8 in. each

ARTIST AND WRITER LYALL F. HARRIS is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate in Art History of Northwestern University. She studied painting and drawing for two years at the San Francisco Art Institute and California College of Arts. Since 1999 her work has been exhibited in more than one hundred exhibitions and recognized with twenty awards. She has been granted three fellowships at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. With her Florentine husband and two daughters, she continues to spend time each year painting and writing in Tuscany.



*Winter Morning*  
2009, oil on canvas, 12 x 16 in.

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS WITH AWARDS

National Academy Museum, New York, NY: *175th Annual Exhibition - The George Hitchcock Prize*  
Hiestand Gallery, Miami University, Oxford, OH: *Young Painters Competition for the William and Dorothy Yeck \$10,000 Purchase Award - Second Place*  
Nicolet College Gallery, Rhinelander, WI: *Northern National Juried Art Competition - Mel and Linda Davidson Award*  
Friesen Gallery with Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA: *13th International Open Exhibition; Contemporary Pastel Impressionists - Award of Merit*  
Kirkland Fine Arts Center, Millikin University, Decatur, IL in three separate biennial exhibitions of *Works on Paper - Juror's Merit Award, Juror's Recognition Award and Honorable Mention*  
Art Association of Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA in two separate *Annual Juried Exhibitions - First Prize, Watercolors and Second Prize, Other Media*

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Sonoma Museum of Visual Art, Santa Rosa, CA: *California Small Works*  
San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA: *43rd Annual International Awarded Exhibition*  
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN: *Sixty Square Inches (2008 & 2006)*  
W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA: *Ink and Clay 27*  
San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA: *Reversing Vandalism*  
National Art League, Douglastown, NY: *70th Annual Open Exhibition*  
Weber State University, Ogden, UT: *What is Drawing Now?*  
Coyote Gallery, Butte Glenn College, Chico, CA: *Conceptually Bound 2, An Exhibition of Artist Bound Books*  
Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven, CT: *Vital Signs: Drawing as Inquiry*  
Brand Library and Art Center, Glendale, CA: *29th Annual Juried Exhibition; Works on Paper*  
Maryland Federation of Art, Annapolis, MD: *American Landscapes 2002*  
Koret Gallery, Palo Alto, CA: *7th Biennial Works on Paper 2000*

## SELECTED FEATURED ARTIST & SMALL GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Cecile Moochnek Gallery, Berkeley, CA: *The Gift of Art - featured artist*  
Comerford Hennessy, Bridgehampton, NY: *Landscape Paintings and Collages - featured artist*  
Thomas Reynolds Gallery, San Francisco, CA: *Small Treasures - featured artist*  
Robert A. Peck Arts Center, Central Wyoming College, Riverton, WY: *Mixed Vistas - five person invitational*  
Art Association of Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA: *Invitational Exhibition - five person invitational*



This exhibition simply would not be possible without my in-laws in Florence and my family in Virginia who took care of my children during various phases of the development of this body of work. I am also grateful to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts for the opportunity to paint in that ideal environment. And many thanks to my husband, Francesco, for his keen eye and the conviction behind his encouragement.


This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of my dear friend, Anne Marino (1934-2009).

*for Anne*

A November wind  
carves the Ginkgo expertly.  
Miniature fans  
flap, shiver; several turn  
then rest. A single yellow  
leaf pirouettes, soundlessly  
unwinding a minute coil.

It sways unburdened  
and dips towards the cottony pool.





I do not use linear perspective,  
but achieve depth by color—the  
function of one color with  
another.

I strip the design to essentials;  
the facts do not interest me as  
much as the essence of nature.

—Milton Avery, 1952