

# CTNOW

## Expressionist Jan Dilenschneider At Bellarmine



"Silver Birch Near Water I and II" by Jan Dilenschneider

(Jan Dilenschneider, Handout / June 24, 2015)

11:03 a.m. EDT, June 24, 2015

SUSAN DUNNE

Jan Dilenschneider said she doesn't create diptychs. She works in "dualities." The painter who lives in Darien has a unique artistic process that helps her maintain the energy of her thoughts.

"I paint two at the same time. I want the surface of the painting to always feel fresh," Dilenschneider said. "I try a couple of strokes to see how the color and texture works, then I go to the 'final one,' then I do a few more strokes on the other one, then I go to the 'final one' again. When I look at both together, they feel like they're moving."

The Bellarmine Museum of Art in Fairfield has a show up now of Dilenschneider's work, many of which are presented side-by-side in pairs.

Although Dilenschneider considers herself "an expressionist, but not an abstract one," she said she is influenced by the color-contrast principles of Michel Eugène Chevreul, who influenced the French impressionists.

"One color sitting next to another affects how each color is seen. It changes that color," she said. "When colors talk to the other colors, it makes both of them more exciting. They don't always have to be complementary colors. People say you need a lot of quiet colors to make other colors look bright. That's not right."

Her canvas "Reeds Along the Shoreline" situates lemon yellow next to spring green next to aqua blue next to royal purple. "Calm and Distant Thoughts" sets a streak of gold horizontally above a band of red, above a patch of grass green. Dilenschneider's "Silver Birch Near the Water" shows pink and white tree trunks emerging out of a base of progressively deeper purple.

"I don't paint diptychs. They're not intended to be shown or sold together, but they talk to each other," she said. "They work fine alone, but they work better together."

**JAN DILENSCHNEIDER: DUALITIES** *will be at Bellarmine Museum of Art, on the campus of Fairfield University, until Sept. 18. [fairfield.edu](http://fairfield.edu).*