Julie Shipp Colbert
Artist Statement

*Surge* is a series of paintings that capture visual anomalies of light and color in action while allowing sections of the paintings to be more spontaneous to mimic the unpredictable, inexplicable, conflicting forces of nature. My previous series of paintings (entitled *Mild Turbulence*) alluded to a shifting movement in the field or surface. This series, a further step in this concept, implies a more direct confrontation of both nature, and the very nature of painting.

*Surge* is a term often referring to sudden upward or sweeping/swelling movement of a wave or cloud, but can also imply a sudden charge of electricity. This is similar to the methods used in creating these works; the paint takes a more active role on the surface by implying motion and illusionistic space, and multi-directional applications, and the light sources often seem intense, and not entirely naturalistic. Colors collide and contrast, while light reflects, illuminates, and separates, and the fields reveal subtle changes in hue. Unruly tempests are layered on the surfaces while internal bands of light and color are imbedded in the paint.

In each painting, the underlying fields take dynamic form in diagonals and swirls, but there appears to be one main action or maneuver of the paint that dominates and directs the field.

Similar to the 19th century landscape paintings that are influenced by the sublime forces of nature, my paintings become transcendental statements. Differing greatly from the 19th century painters, however, is the fact that I exclude the actual trappings of identifiable landscape and nature. The paintings are statement about my own understanding of time and ideas of universality and spiritualization. Although we occupy specific times in designated spaces, we are all living a transitory existence.