

# PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY

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## DENNIS EKSTEDT

### ARTIST STATEMENT

In his work, Dennis Ekstedt expresses a great interest in light. In particular, the kind of electric and artificial light that is found in cities at night. For the past few years, the Montreal artist has been making paintings that depict distant views of illuminated cities at night, as seen through windows from up high. For Ekstedt, distant lights viewed through windows (such as from an airplane or a hotel window) provoke the thrill of viewing a landscape that is literally electrified by human habitation—a landscape that resembles a kind of living organism.

Ekstedt's paintings suggest various abstract and representational visual *effects* of light, and *sources* of electric light such as dissolves, shimmers, layers, inserts, projections, lamps, computer and television screens; as well as phenomena such as water, fireworks, and celestial and cosmological phenomena. The artist's goal is to evoke a kind of phenomenological sublime through the ethereal luminosity of electric light—a kind of visual sensation of luminosity. Ekstedt also wishes to evoke a sense of transcendence and the romantic sublime—a surrendering or loss of self in the face of something seemingly greater.