

## UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 15 works May 10-June 11, 2011 George Billis Gallery 521 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street B1 New York, NY 10001 (212) 645-2621

## STEPHEN MAGSIG

## Manhattan shadows

hile Stephen Magsig is attempting to paint looser and less realistic for his new exhibition, his paintings seem to be getting larger and more detailed. While he will include several smaller paintings in his show at the George Billis Gallery in Chelsea, many of the paintings will be between 4 and 6 feet across, much like the signature piece, Hudson and Perry.

"I've backed off a slight bit from where I was in previous years and now I'm closing in on specific buildings," says Magsig. "Some of the work are portraits of buildings that are more detailed, more reflections, just more going on than usual. Light plays an important role in these new paintings, as does shadows, reflections, reflective light—all of that."

The trouble for Magsig comes from balancing the realism of his work with more abstract, painterly qualities.

"I've always been a realist, that is who I am and what I am," explains Magsig. "However, lately I've been trying to go more in the opposite way, direct and spontaneous like some of the small paintings I do. I struggle with that, however, because I'm not trying to be a photorealist and I want to be a loose painter, but there is a fine line between loose and sloppy. So it is difficult for me to loosen up as much as I want to."

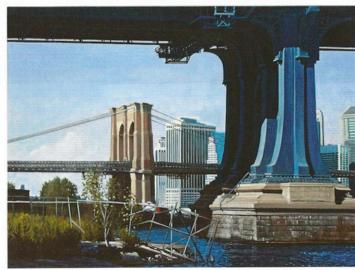
Magsig enjoys being able to step away from the work and see the whole painting in a more realist tone and then, upon closer examination, it falls apart into abstractions of light and color.

"Light and color seem to be what I'm working with the most now," says Magsig. "Some paintings deal with light, some with the absence of light and some with reflective light and things going on in the window. There also is a wide color range, even in the whites, from yellow to mauve to light green to blue to deep blue and then to purple. I like finding color where there typically isn't any there."

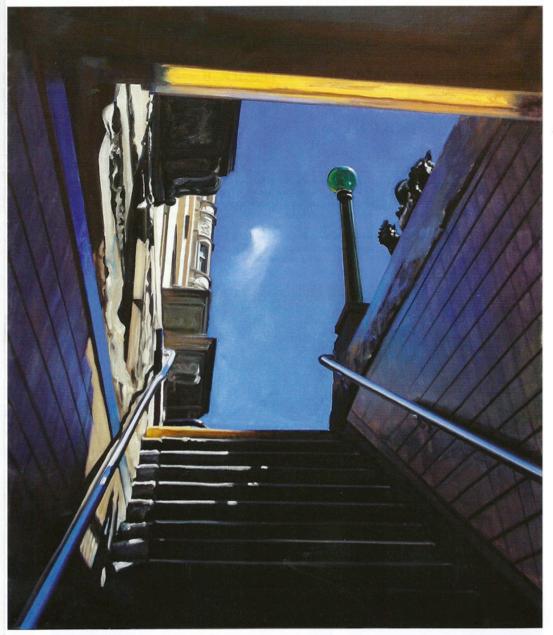




HUDSON AND PERRY, OIL ON LINEN, 48 x 60"



Manhattan Bridge Shadows, oil on linen, 36 x 48"



72<sup>NO</sup> STREET-THE DAKOTA, OIL ON LINEN, 42 X 36"