

# Henk Pander

May 3 – July 21, 2012

Exhibition organized through Katharine T. Carter & Associates

Henk Pander's paintings are aligned with long-standing traditions in European landscape and still life painting while they explore the American scene and historical memory. For his landscapes, he chooses historically relevant, albeit forgotten, sites. He paints these as they are, deserted and in disrepair as a commentary on how short our cultural memories can be. These large-scale paintings, some as large as 12 feet wide, act as monuments to these places and the history they represent.



In Pander's native country of Holland, still life paintings referred to as "vanitas" were popular in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. These paintings spoke to the brevity of earthly possessions. They take their name from the second verse from the first chapter of the Book of Ecclesiastes: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." These paintings feature opulent arrangements of flowers, gold, silver and glass ware, musical instruments, tropical fruit, books, and sometimes floating soap bubbles. Vanitas paintings reflect the deep religious conviction of their owners as they admonished all to turn away from temporary, worldly gain and toward the spiritual and eternal. Pander's work transforms the vanitas still life as a contemporary theme.

