

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**



Ilana Manolson, *Spring*  
oil on board, 18x18 inches, 2008

***A Painter's Journey from Naturalist to Artist***  
***Artist Ilana Manolson brings Naturalist sensibility to Landscape Master Classes***  
***being offered as part of a new Artist Pass Program partnership***

**Framingham, MA**—Ilana Manolson, 2008 Massachusetts Cultural Council Painting fellow, will join an elite group of New England Artists as faculty for a new series of *Landscape Master Classes* offered as part of a new collaboration between artscope magazine, the Danforth Museum of Art and New England Wildflower Society. The **Artist Pass Program** partnership will allow students to move out of their studios and work *en plein air* independently or with nationally renowned landscape painters, in New England's premier botanic garden, *Garden in the Woods*, devoted to the conservation of temperate North American native flora.

Manolson sees *Garden in the Woods* as the perfect environment for her two-day workshop, ***A Painter's Journey through the Landscape***. Before coming to the United States 28 years ago, Manolson worked as a naturalist in Canada's National Park system observing the environment closely and communicating her observations to visitors. As an artist, she also closely observes the environment and records her impression in paint. "*I see being a naturalist and of being a painter as being very much related in that you are looking at an environment closely, looking over time and looking for the details that explain the larger whole,*" she explains. During her time in Elk National Park, Manolson was charged with observing an area inhabited by protected wood bison. She plotted 12" square samples, watching how the land changed over time to ensure that the park wasn't overgrazed by the bison. Manolson credits this experience with teaching her how to observe the landscape in a way that allows her to capture its essence. She uses paint to express the minute details of a complex environment, recording her momentary impressions of nature by working *en plein air* in all seasons, including winters in New England and the rainy seasons in Ireland. She hopes to help her students learn how to best setup in sometimes tenuous conditions, and capture their own experience of the landscape in their work.

The artist joins nationally recognized landscape painters and artists, **Jane Goldman, Jon Imber, Catherine Kernan, Heddi Vaughan Siebel, and Willard Traub**, and **George Nick** in leading classes, workshops and critiques throughout the Garden's 2009 Season. From now through October 31<sup>st</sup>, students will have the opportunity to join master artists in Framingham's Garden in the Woods, which offers 45-acres, 1,000 native plant species, over 150 rare and endangered species and unique vistas for artists to observe and interpret. "Garden in the Woods is a unique setting for artists, offering a tremendous variety of colors, textures, lighting, and subject matter. The Garden is a stunning image, waiting to be captured for posterity," stated Debbi Edelstein, New England Wild Flower Society's Executive Director. "The program will surely produce some very exciting work. We are looking forward to this first year as a learning experience to make the program even more rewarding for the participating artists and museums in the future."

Katherine French, Danforth Museum of Art's Executive Director, anticipates that some of this exciting new work will find its way into the Museum. "There is a long tradition of artists working in the New England landscape—Marsden Hartley on the Maine coast, Edward Hopper on Cape Cod, or Albrecht Bierstadt in the White Mountains. Our understanding of nature is enriched by artists who record their experience of place. Some of our nation's best contemporary art is produced by New England artists, and now it will be happening in our own back yard. We expect to curate a great exhibit from this work."

### **About the Artist Pass Program**

From now through October 31<sup>st</sup>, the **Artist Pass Program** will allow artists working in all media to move out of their studios and work *en plein air* in **New England Wild Flower Society's** Garden in the Woods. The program provides great opportunities to develop artistic skills and explore new avenues by allowing a select number of artists, entry to the gardens to scout locations and work independently. At the **Danforth Museum of Art**, one of New England's fastest growing museums, artists will be able to view works drawn from the Museum's permanent collection of over 3,500 works, including outstanding examples of landscape paintings by Bierstadt and others free of charge and will be invited to study with nationally renowned landscape painters through Danforth Museum School Landscape master classes. *artscope magazine* is the supporting partner and will provide information about the program to the artistic community through the print publication and website.

**Fee: \$50 per artist, Setting: Garden in the Woods, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA**

### **About the Artist**

A solo exhibition of Ilana Manolson's work is now on view at Jason McCoy Gallery, 41 East 57th Street 11th floor, New York, NY website: [www.jasonmccoyinc.com](http://www.jasonmccoyinc.com). Her landscapes are also currently being shown at the Clark Gallery, Lincoln, MA [www.clarkgallery.com](http://www.clarkgallery.com) and at Miller Block Gallery, Boston, MA [www.millerblockgallery.com](http://www.millerblockgallery.com). Learn more about the artist at [www.manolson.com](http://www.manolson.com).

### **About the Landscape Master Classes**

Artist Pass participants are eligible to apply for master classes or critiques taught by renowned landscape artists and must register for classes through the Danforth Museum School by calling 508.620.0937, Mondays through Fridays, 9-4 pm. See the Danforth Museum of Art website at [www.danforthmuseum.org/landscapemasterclasses.html](http://www.danforthmuseum.org/landscapemasterclasses.html) for details on this portion of the program.

**About the Pass at Garden in the Woods**

The *Artist Pass Program* preserves the position of artist as naturalist by limiting the number of artists working on-site at any one time in support of conservation efforts within this unique living museum. Pre-registration for each morning or afternoon session is required of all Artist Pass participants. Call the registrar Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at 508-877-7630, ext 3303. No walk-ins are allowed. See the New England Wild Flower Society website at

[www.newfs.org/visit/Garden-in-the-Woods/artist-pass-program.html](http://www.newfs.org/visit/Garden-in-the-Woods/artist-pass-program.html) for details on this portion of the program.-End-