



Adam Straus, *Summit Melting*, 2007, oil on linen mounted on Masonite framed in lead, 25" x 29" x 2½". Nohra Haime.

Adam Straus

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In this show, "Tick Tock Drip Drop," Adam Straus once again took up the theme of blighted nature with a series of 13 beautiful and moving landscapes. His subjects—whether the majestic mountains of the icy north or the wide-open beaches near his Long Island home—are places that are threatened by encroaching development, or by ecological neglect or disaster—sites that may cease to exist in the near future.

In breathtaking images of the natural world being eroded, Straus warns of the perils facing it while increasing our appreciation for it. He has surrounded his quiet panoramas with frames made of lead, whose toxicity serves as the perfect foil to the natural, and now disappearing, unspoiled scene.

Straus spent his childhood running free in the Florida landscape. That early appreciation of nature, coupled with a background in photography and sculpture, informs his painting, from the way he captures light falling on a towering mountain in *Summit Melting* (2007) to his portrayal of a group of Corot-like woodland scenes, particularly the luminous *Winter Sunset from Indian Island Woods* (2006) and *Moonrise Over Country Road and Trees and Open Field* (2007). Straus devotes himself with sophistication and subtlety to the issue of environmental preservation. Al Gore could use his services.

—Valerie Gladstone