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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, South Carolina, has acquired an oil painting by New York artist Michael Abrams, *Somerset Lake*, 2012. This is the first of Abrams' work to enter the CMA collection.

In its restrained manner *Somerset Lake* is inviting the viewer into a familiar world but does so with just a few elements. Regarding this work, Abrams says, "While the subject matter is recognizable, it simultaneously offers a time and place that exists solely in a mental space, recalling a nostalgic quality that is slowly revealed through a suggestion of water, a glint of light, and some paint strokes exposing treed hillsides." Abrams has recently been experimenting with this format in which at first glance the paintings embody a somewhat minimalistic quality. This is achieved through a process involving a layering of glazes from semitransparent to opaque, ultimately creating an atmospheric and luminous quality. The glazes are built up over time, taking the image from an initial stage influenced by images of nature and derived from various travels to an idealized form of personal invention.



Somerset Lake, oil on canvas, 11 x 14 inches

Founded in 1950, the Columbia Museum of Art is South Carolina's premier international art museum housing a collection of American, European, and Asian art and Antiquities that has significantly grown through generous gifts and acquisitions.