



*The Nature of Things*

April 27 - June 1 2002

179 Newbury Street Boston MA 02116  
Tel 617 266 4835 Fax 617 266 0480 [www.nielsengallery.com](http://www.nielsengallery.com)

*J o a n S n y d e r*

NIELSEN GALLERY

## ***The Nature of Things***

In early September of 2001 I was cautiously approaching three blank canvases, which I wanted to work on all at the same time. My plan was to make landscapes relating to a painting I had made that previous spring called "Lacrymae Antigua/Ancient Tears." It seemed like a good theme to take off from. I had barely put on a few layers of underpainting when September 11th struck. I was in the country in Woodstock and I remember thinking over and over that it was the most beautiful autumn in recent memory. It seemed heartbreakingly beautiful, or maybe things and nature just came into sharper and clearer focus. Access to the city was impossible and besides I desperately needed to stay put and make beautiful paintings. I kept painting.

My last show at Nielsen Gallery (November 2000) was titled "In Times of Great Disorder," a rather dramatic title I thought at the time. And now that we are truly living in times of great disorder, I find myself only wanting to concentrate on nature and beauty and light in my work. I have no desire at the moment to make political paintings or even tough over-the-edge paintings. I worked through September and October, finishing the three paintings ("Elegy," "The Fall 2001" and "The Nature of Things") and finally came back to Brooklyn where I kept painting - this time pumpkin and sun fields, Hubbard squash fields in the blazing sun, Acorn squash left in a picked field (a meditation), and small round ripe orange pumpkins with dried up vines on a field of straw with a field of strokes sitting near it, making the whole resonate. The sun became a major theme -- the desire for light and fruition and decay, but decay as a natural process. When it came time to title one of the paintings, I wanted a simple descriptive title and came up with "Pumpkin Field with Seven Suns," only to discover that myths and folklore abound surrounding the theme of seven suns. The legends are often about seven suns causing burning drought and intolerable heat and suffering. And so in spite of my desire for simplicity, I could not escape the collective unconscious or the nature of things.

It has given me great comfort to make these paintings and hopefully they will do the same for others. I am deeply grateful to Nielsen Gallery: to John Baker and Nina Nielsen and Marie Foley for their loving support of my work for the past 21 years.

*"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle."* Philo of Alexandria, an early Jewish Philosopher

***Joan Snyder***

March 2002

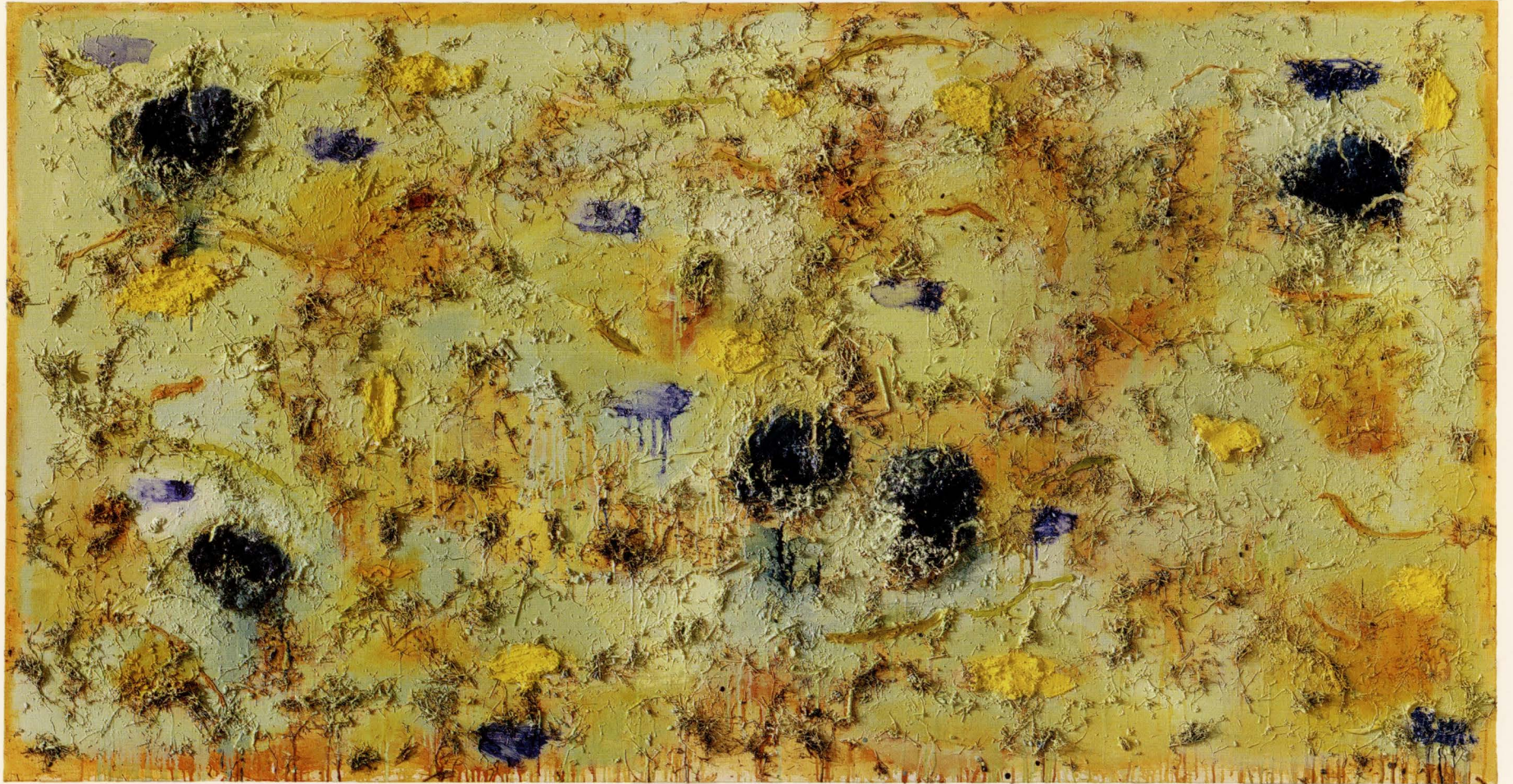


***Little Ripened Fields***, 2002

Oil, acrylic, paper mache, straw, herbs and ink on wood panel, 18" x 36"

**Autumn Song**, 2002

Oil, acrylic, paper mache, herbs on linen, 50" x 96"



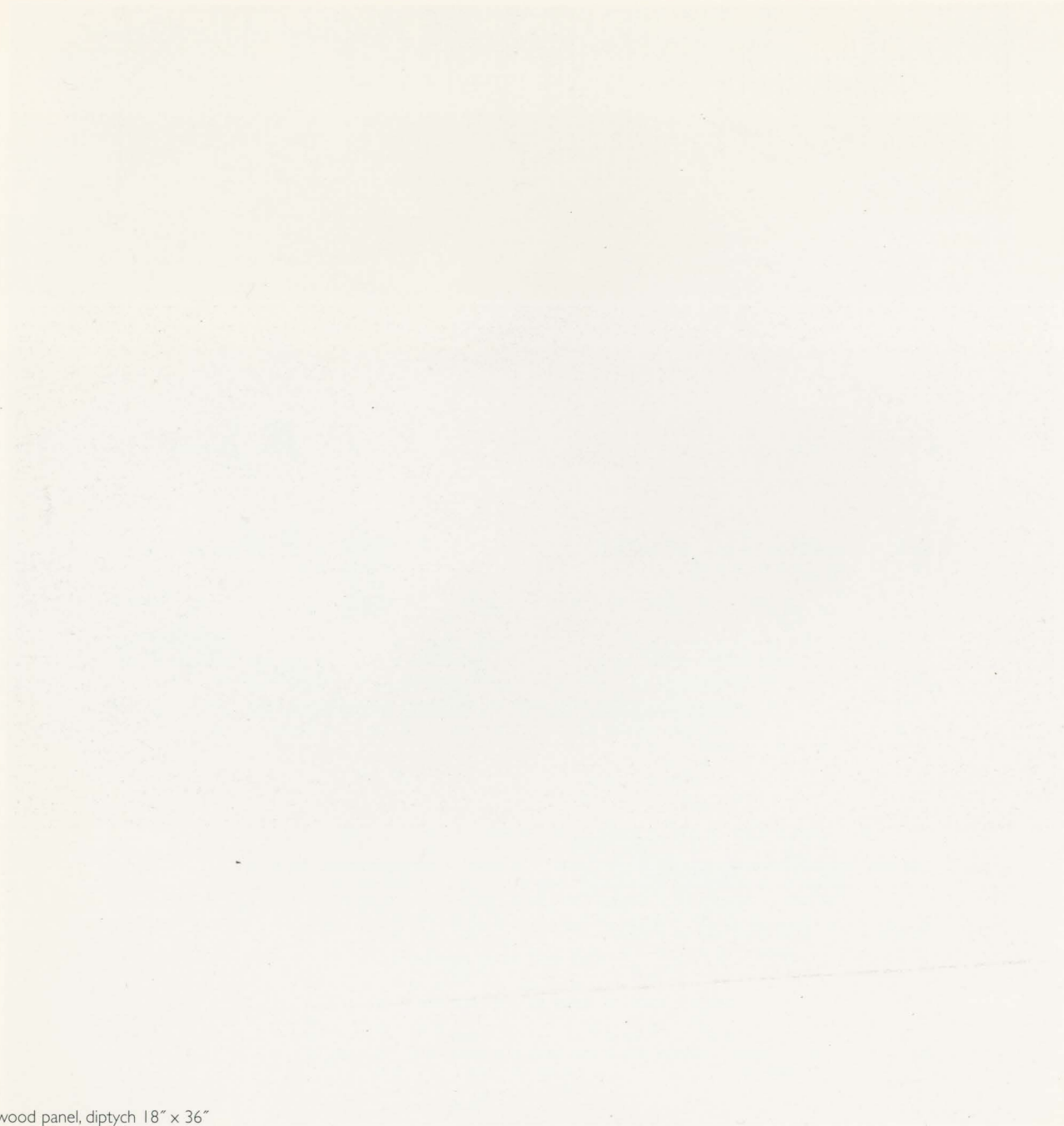


***The Fall, 2001***, 2001

Oil, acrylic and herbs on canvas, 64" x 60"







**Sun/Squash**, 2002

Oil, acrylic and herbs on wood panel, diptych 18" x 36"





***Ripened Fields***, 2002

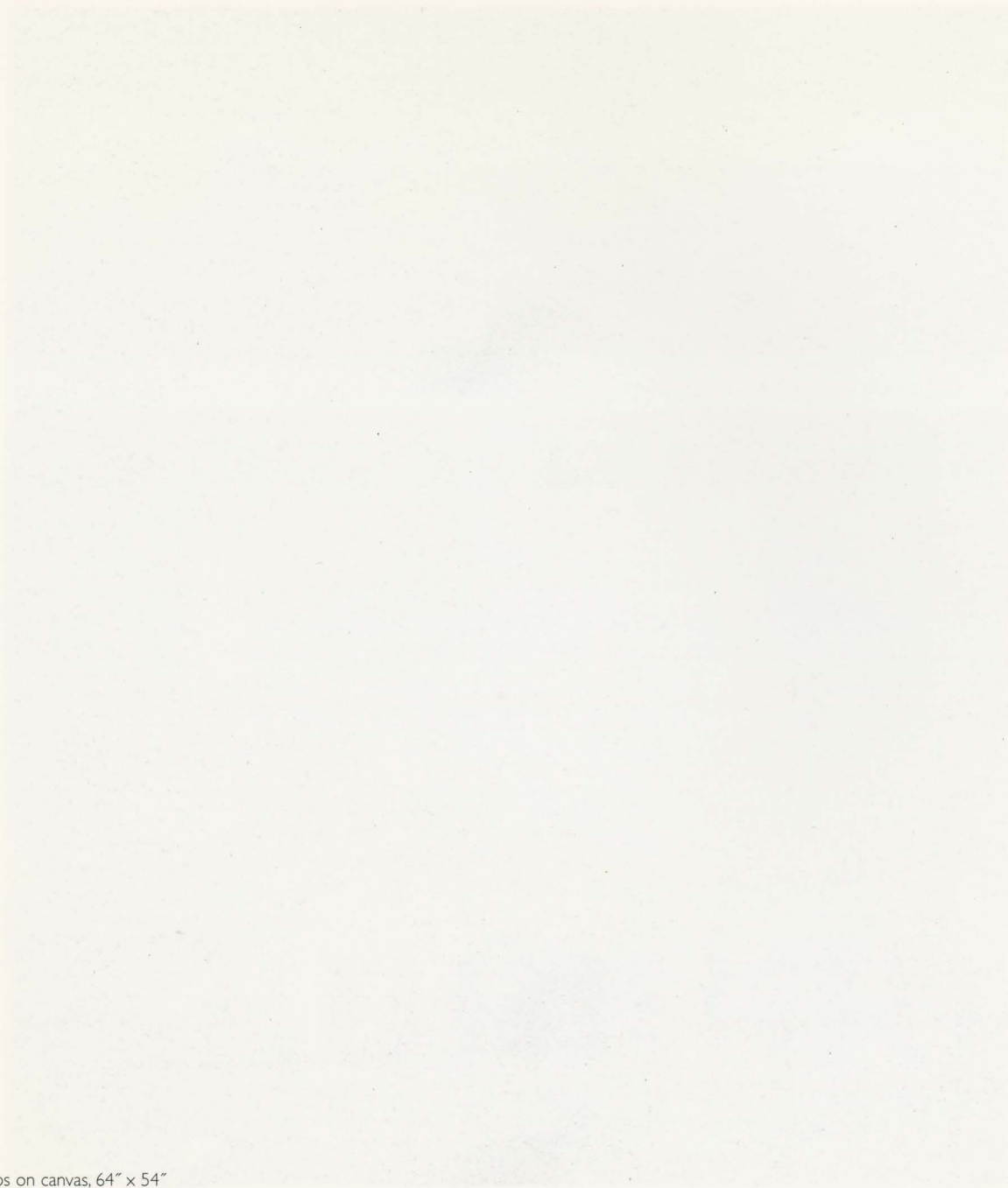
Oil, acrylic, paper mache, straw, herbs, ink on linen, diptych 50" x 132"



***The Nature of Things***, 2001

Oil, acrylic, herbs, earth and velvet on canvas, 64" x 54"





**Elegy**, 2001

Oil, acrylic, paper mache and herbs on canvas, 64" x 54"







**Vines/Sunlines**, 2002

Oil, acrylic, paper mache and herbs on linen, 50" x 90"





***Pumpkin Field with Seven Suns***, 2002  
Oil, acrylic, paper mache and herbs on linen, 66" x 96"



# Joan Snyder

## Chronology

- 1940 Born, Highland Park, New Jersey, April 16  
1962 A.B., Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ  
1966 M.F.A., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
Lives and works in Brooklyn and Woodstock, NY

## Awards

- 1983 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship  
1974 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2002 Nielsen Gallery, Boston, MA also 2000, 1998, 1997, 1994, 1991, 1983, 1981  
2001 Robert Miller Gallery, New York, NY  
2000 The Philadelphia Museum of Jewish Art, Philadelphia, PA  
1998 The Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY  
Hirschl & Adler Modern, also 1996, 1994, 1992, 1990, 1988  
1995 Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, PA  
1994 Jay Gorney Modern Art, New York, NY  
Rose Art Museum, Waltham, MA and The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY  
1993 Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA  
1988-89 Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, traveling exhibition: Brown University, SUNY Stonybrook, de Saisset Museum, Sonoma State University  
1982 Hamilton Gallery, New York, NY, also 1979, 1978  
1981 Matrix Gallery, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT  
1979 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA, traveling exhibition: Grand Rapids Art Museum, Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA  
1978 Neuberger Museum, SUNY at Purchase, NY  
1977 Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

- 1976 Carl Solway Gallery, New York, NY also 1975  
Douglass College, Rutgers, The State University, New Brunswick, NJ  
Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, Century City, CA  
Reed College, Portland, OR  
1973 Paley & Lowe Gallery, New York, NY also 1971, 1970  
1971 Michael Walls Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
Bykert Gallery, New York, NY

## Selected Museum Exhibitions

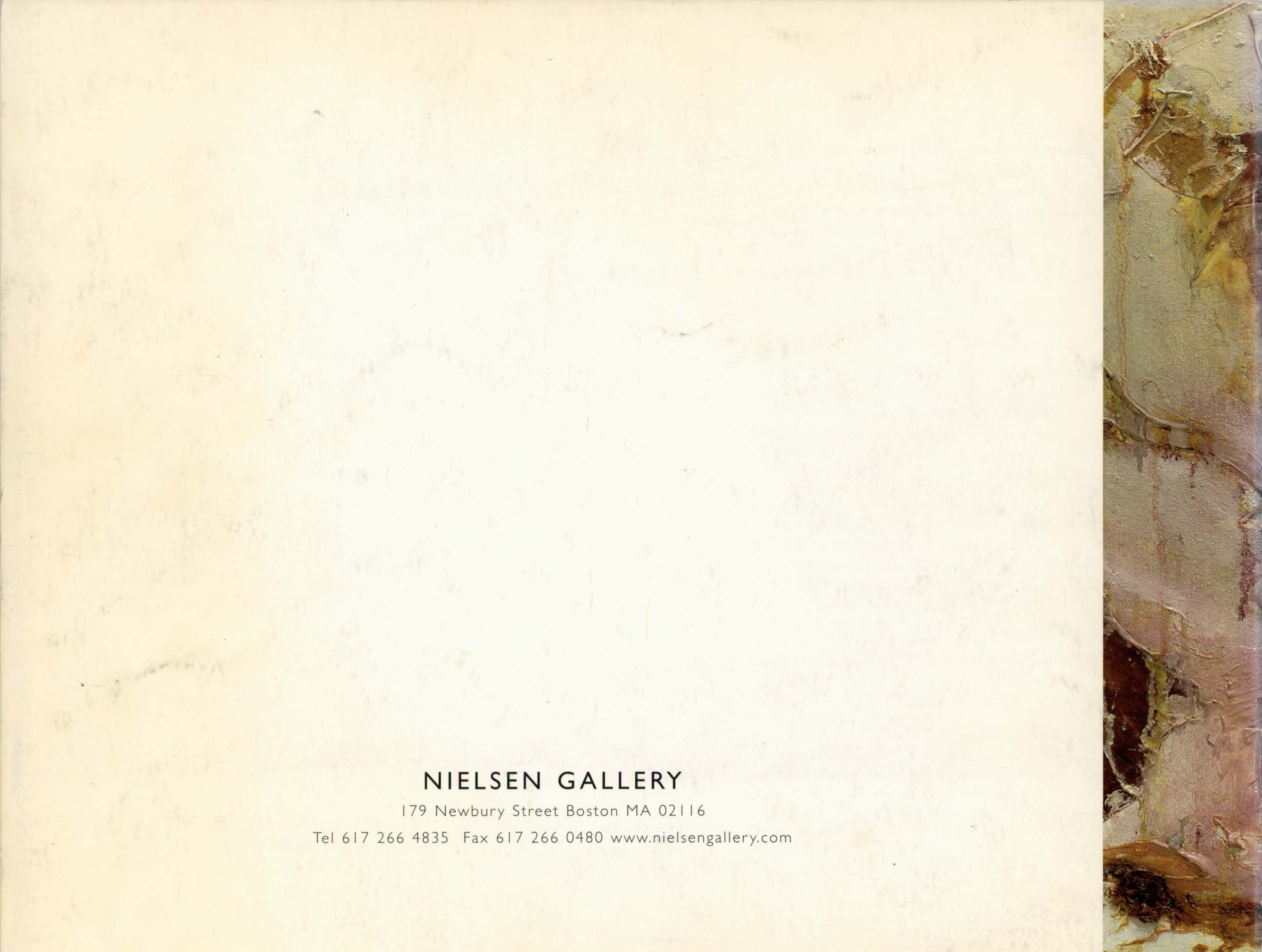
- 1999 Whitney Museum of American Art at Champion, "Contemporary Narratives in American Prints," Stamford, CT  
Fine Arts Center Galleries, University of Rhode Island, "Unlocking the Grid," Kingston, RI  
1998 The Parrish Art Museum, "Dreams for the Next Century: A View of the Collection," Easthampton, NY  
Butler Institute of American Art, "Master of the Masters," exhibit of MFA Faculty of SVA, 1983-98, Youngstown, OH  
Ashville Museum of Art, "Beyond the Mountains: Contemporary American Landscape," Ashville, NC  
1997 The Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, "After the Fall: Aspects of Abstract Painting Since 1970," Staten Island, NY  
1995 Marsh Art Gallery, University of Richmond, "Repicturing Abstraction," Richmond, VA  
1992 Gibbes Museum of Art and the School of the Arts, College of Charleston, "Painting Self-Evident: Evolutions in Abstraction," Charleston, SC  
1990 Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University "The Image of Abstract Painting in the 80's," Waltham, MA  
1989 The Cincinnati Art Museum, "Making Their Mark: Women Artists Move into the Mainstream 1970-1985," Cincinnati, OH  
1987 Corcoran Gallery of Art, "Corcoran Biennial," Washington, DC  
1985 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, "Reflections of Monet," Boston, MA  
1981 Museum of Modern Art, "New Works on Paper I," New York, NY  
The Whitney Museum of American Art, "1981 Whitney Biennial," New York, NY

### **Selected Public Collections**

Allen Art Museum, Oberlin College, OH  
Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA  
Ball State University Museum of Art, Muncie, IN  
Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY  
Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York, NY  
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX  
First Church of Christ Scientist, Boston, MA  
Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI  
The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
The Jewish Museum, New York, NY  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA  
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY  
The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC  
The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC  
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA  
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA  
Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, KS  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

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Cover: "Elegy" (detail) 2001, oil, acrylic,  
paper mache and herbs on canvas, 64" x 54"



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