



ABOVE: Joerg Dressler, pictured in his studio, began creating larger works after receiving a commission for a large format painting in 2005. BELOW: *Open Blue* is a 24" x 36" oil on canvas.

A native of Germany, **Joerg Dressler** traveled throughout Europe as a child and remembers with special fondness the museums in Paris, particularly the works of Impressionists and Expressionists he saw there. With the likes of Monet and Van Gogh as his role models, Dressler composed his first oil painting at the age of 13. When he reached college age, knowing he had an emerging talent, the artist decided to attend Hochschule für Gestaltung, a respected university of arts and sciences in Offenbach, Germany.

"I felt like I didn't fit in with the fine-arts crowd," remembers Dressler, 43. "I thought you had to have a statement and be miserable about the world. I fell in love with typography, and decided to switch from fine arts to graphic design."

After studying typography at Ecole Nationale Supérieur des Arts Décoratifs in Paris and graduating with a master of arts degree from Hochschule für Gestaltung in 1994, Dressler landed a job with a design studio in Frankfurt. Two years later, when his partner at the time took a job in the U.S., Dressler succeeded in getting two job offers from Boston firms. He decided in two hours to come here.

Dressler was introduced to the Cape's foremost arts community by his current partner, Steven, and now he splits his time between Boston and Provincetown, where the pair live in a historic West End home. In Dressler's stu-





His 4' x 5' *The Mill #2* appeared in a 2007 juried exhibition at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum. "Whether it's a 5" x 5" painting or a large work, I use the same tools," says Dressler.

dio—one half of the property's detached garage—sunlight streams in through a skylight, while reclaimed wood floorboards and the owner's self-framed oil paintings add warmth to the space.

Using palette knives, Dressler applies layer upon layer of oil paint to canvasses that range in size from five inches square to four feet by five feet. The only time he uses a brush is to refine a tiny detail. "Some of my paintings with a few layers are done quickly, while others take a lot longer if I am not satisfied with the color and details," he explains. "The disadvantage of oils is when you are really in the mode, you have to stop and be patient. At least I have to, or I wouldn't get the layering of clear colors I desire."

Dressler paints mostly abstract landscapes. "My abstract landscapes more or less happen. I might have an idea of colors I want to use, but I don't have a goal," says the artist.

"My work is an expression of the impressions that surround me on a daily basis. It could be a poster, movie, conversation, a landscape here in Provincetown, a memory, other paintings. For me, my work is more about broadening, not changing. In the painting process, you set out for a goal, but the process itself is what is fascinating."