

## DRAWINGS - Deborah Thompson

Drawing has always been a fundamental part of my practice. I keep an area in my studio in which I can draw at any time along side of my painting or sculpture practice. In this sense it is a way I can generate ideas and deepen my relationship and understanding of an image. The structure of my paintings over the past many years has largely come from understanding of a form through drawing. During the years that I didn't have a studio and was traveling field studies were a way I could connect to the environment more fully. When I could I also drew from the figure for many years and this has informed much of my work and sense of form.

### FIGURATIVE DRAWINGS

The graphite on paper figurative drawings were done while I was at a residency at the Vermont Studio Center. At the time, I was working almost exclusively with the human figure, drawing from a model when ever I got the chance and also using magazine images and anatomy books to learn about the human body.

During this residency, I was going to a life modeling session in the morning and then later in the day back in my studio, I would tape up a piece of drawing paper on the wall and wait in stillness for an image to come. Once they began, the drawing emerged building upon itself as it unfolded. The drawings, some 30 of them were exhibited at the University of Nevada in Reno. I pinned them to the gallery walls in long processions of figures. They came across as very tender and vulnerable which seemed an odd juxtaposition to the environment of Reno with its brothels, gated communities, nuclear testing and extreme conservatism. In fact, during the opening reception there was a lock down on campus.