



A show of Chris Reilly and Michelle Haglund's encaustic paintings hangs at Diehl Gallery through the end of the month. About three-quarters of the works are collaborative; the rest are solo endeavors by Reilly.

## HUSBAND, WIFE

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two-ended metal spatula or a brush.

Reilly and Haglund work out of muffin pans or cans on hot plates with bristle brushes and wood chisels. They start with a clear beeswax and melt the pigments they need into it.

Although wax is inherently more translucent than oil or acrylic paint, the two most common media for painting, it is not because of the wax alone that Reilly and Haglund's paintings look the way they do.

As mentioned previously, they first cover their canvases with layers of watercolor and gesso. The wax is then painted on in layers sometimes broken by additional layers of watercolor. Once the wax dries — and it doesn't take long — Reilly and Haglund often go back and in places remove several layers.

"I love the mixture of creation and destruction at the same time," Reilly said. "That's nature: creation and destruction. Scraping layers back gives the paintings a look of entropy. Things are breaking up."

Sounds complex, yes? Reilly and

Haglund will be on hand to demonstrate at Saturday's reception.

As with all Diehl Gallery shows this year, collectors are invited to write 10 percent of the acquisition cost of a Reilly/Haglund painting directly to a nonprofit. For this show, the gallery has partnered with Community Safety Network, a Jackson-based organization providing support, advocacy, shelter, and assistance to those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, the most under-reported crimes in Teton County.

To allow collectors to make this donation, which they can then take as a tax deduction, Diehl Gallery, Reilly and Haglund all forego a portion of the profits they would make on the sale.

"This is money coming out of the artists' pocket," Diehl said. "And the gallery's as well, but it's something we're committed to. Artists know that if they want to show at Diehl Gallery, this is the arrangement."

When the Reilly/Haglund show comes down July 30, works from another married couple, Monica Petty Aiello and Tyler Aiello, go up. Each of the Aiellos works in different styles and media.

## PAINTING IN REVERSE

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dramatic angst of destruction," he wrote in an e-mail. "Instead, they are celebrations of life and creativity. They are a reflection of the beauty of what is here and now."

To achieve such life and luminosity in his paintings, Balaam works in an unusual and relatively difficult style he calls "painting in reverse." While most artists work first on the background and then overlay it with more detail, Balaam begins with the foreground and proceeds to the distance, never overlapping any two colors. This ensures the artist's semitranslucent oil paints are all directly applied over a bright white ground, essentially enhancing the energy of the piece.

"The style came about out of necessity," Balaam said by phone. "I wanted to capture not just a pictorial image of a forest, but its total energy."

From across the room, observers can see the passion Balaam puts into each work and the intensity his reverse style of painting creates. However, up close, it is the heavy 3-D impasto that captures attention. Balaam's larger paintings, including those measuring 4 feet by 4 feet, can take two weeks to a month to create, plus an additional week at the start for plein air sketching and other preparations. In the end, the final pieces can have up to half an inch of paint in some areas, and all without overlapping any colors. Major works on this scale, such as "Sunset Birches II Late Evening" and "Red Sumac IV," both housed at Horizon Gallery, can take up to two months to fully dry.

"It's amazing how his whole process progresses," Nowak said. "The finished products are so beautiful and three-dimensional that photographs really can't portray how full of life and color they are."



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new works

**JULY 17  
THROUGH  
JULY 30  
2010**

ARTIST RECEPTION  
AND  
DEMONSTRATION OF  
ENCAUSTIC PROCESS:

**Saturday, July 17  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**DIEHL**  
gallery



Chris Reilly Nectar Encaustic, ink and gesso on canvas/panel 60" x 48"

**Collectors are invited to write 10% of the acquisition cost of works in this show directly to Community Safety Network, a 501(c)(3) organization.**

Community Safety Network provides safety and hope to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking by offering free and confidential shelter, support and prevention education any time of the day or night at 733-SAFE. To get help, learn more or give hope visit [www.csnjh.org](http://www.csnjh.org).



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