

# Arts & Leisure

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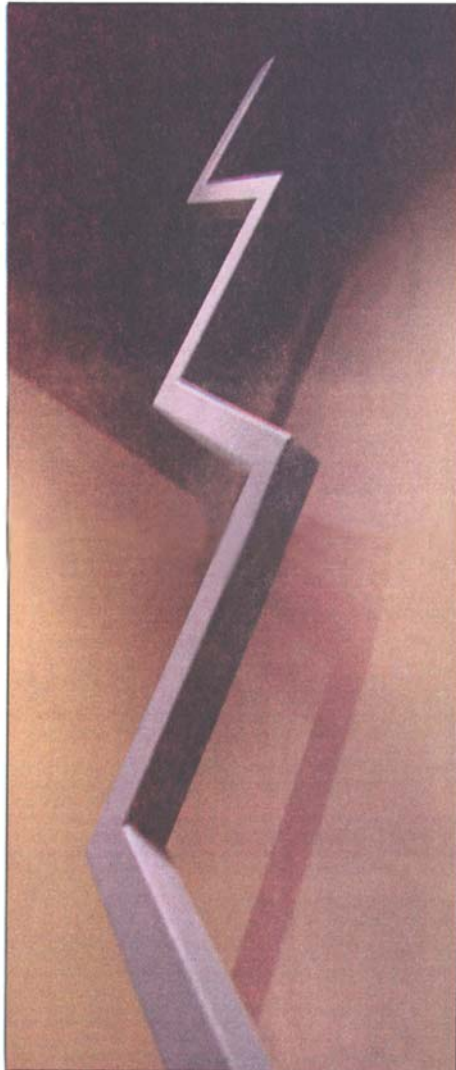
THE MANHATTAN MERCURY

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006



landscape painting by Lisa Grossman

## IN THEIR ELEMENT



'Endless Column' by Tal Streeter

Jessica Grant  
Staff Writer

**T**al Streeter's sculptures possess a haunting quality even as they languish in the basement of the Strecker-Nelson Gallery.

The pieces are simple, steel gray bars, bent at angles like the twisted legs of a demolished building. They seem cold nestled amidst the vibrant paintings of other artists, but their muted feel speaks volumes.

Streeter calls his pieces "ghost sculptures," — models of several former sculptures that were painted vibrant blues or deep reds.

The former Manhattan resident, who now lives in Santa Fe, N.M., will be a featured artist in the "Lisa Grossman: On the Horizon" series that opens April 28 at the Strecker-Nelson Gallery, 406 1/2 Poyntz Ave.

Streeter considers his "Endless Column," a series of steel bars welded together at distinct angles, to be a symbolic ladder to the sky, paying homage to a piece of the same name done by Romanian artist Constantin Brancusi.

Streeter's piece is an example of the minimalist art movement that emerged in the 1950s and continued through the 1970s. The movement features paintings and sculptures that are simplistic in content and form. Streeter describes the style as "non-objective and free in content."

His original version of "Endless Column" was painted a deep red and stood 60 feet high at the corner of 79th Street and 5th Avenue in New York City.

"When I first created these sculptures they were painted dark blue or deep red," Streeter explained. "These current pieces are painted light gray, almost like ghosts of their former sculptures. This gives them a more restrained presence that bright colors won't allow."

He says he's always been drawn to storytelling (he has published several books and also dabbles in photography) and that his art has allowed him to explore the harmony between human-made objects and nature.

Streeter's sculptures will be showcased with the paintings of Lawrence-based artist Lisa Grossman.

Grossman, with a brush to create landscapes, is "like Hemingway with a sentence," said Jay Nelson, co-owner of Strecker-Nelson Gallery. Grossman's paintings are "reduced to the necessary element and use the simplest visual language."

Grossman said she primarily works with open prairie spaces in the Flint Hills, Konza Prairie and flood plains around the Lawrence area. Originally from Pennsylvania, Grossman said she found the subject of her art when she discovered the plains of Kansas.

"I try to capture the fleeting moments, the shifting light and color," Grossman explained. "Sometimes I work with the question 'How little information can I include and still have it be an interesting piece — have it still be a landscape?'"

Most of her landscapes explore the dichotomy between murky clouds and a colorful twilight sky, creating works that are dramatic, yet placid.

Grossman said she is an advocate of open space that leaves room for contemplation and reflection. "Some people are uncomfortable in open spaces," she said, "but it's essential that we can be in those places."

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### About the show

**WHEN:** April 28 to June 9.

There will be a reception for the artists from 5 to 8 p.m. April 28, at Strecker-Nelson.

**WHERE:** Strecker-Nelson

Gallery, 406 1/2 Poyntz Ave.

**COST:** Free.

**HOURS:** Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



'Nocturne' by Lisa Grossman

Photos courtesy of James Nedresky  
Design and layout by Danae Jensen

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—Lisa Grossman