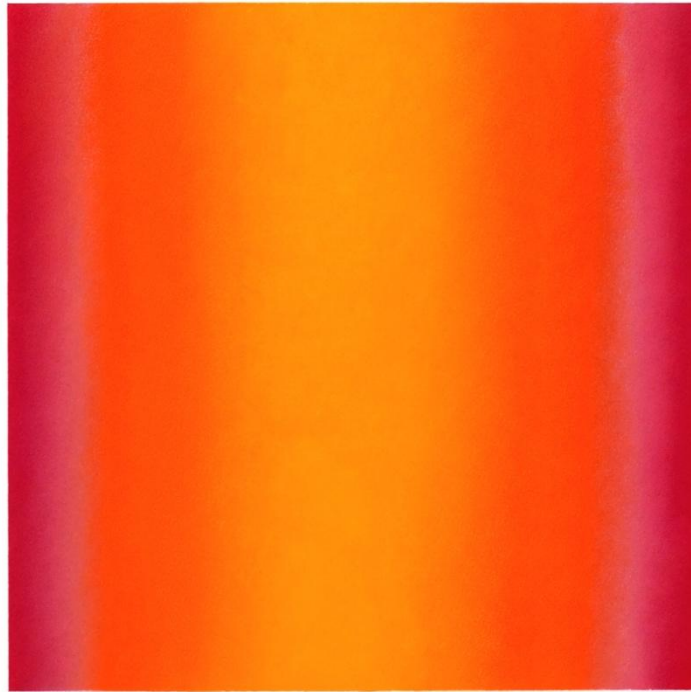


## Ruth Pastine

By Roberta Carasso



Ruth Pastine, "Counterpoint #24," 2012, pastel on paper, 30 x 22", is currently on view at Edward Cella.

Ruth Pastine's latest series, "Counterpoint," is a luscious group of pastel on paper pieces. Like its musical name, "Counterpoint" is a unique relationship between different voices, independent and separate. But when each voice shares the same ground, unexpected possibilities emerge. In "Counterpoint #24" reds, oranges, and pinks dialogue, each to its own rhythm. They amplify each other as their colorful tones sing out in harmony and in contradiction. Pastine is a colorist whose reputation as a painter has been built on the beauty of her rigorous search to push new color and perceptual possibilities. Her gradient and enigmatic worlds of pastels play off each other; a play of color against color, color supporting color, and color for the sheer delight of brilliant light that only color can emit. Her contrapuntal drawings are deceptively simple as complex rhythms, layers, and contours awaken the senses to experience the emergence of fresh spatial relationships. Going beyond her previous series, these works on paper reveal the "edge" rather than the seamless.