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BAMA

This work is a meditation on change in the contemporary Alabama landscape. In particular, I focus on the experience of farmers whose methods of farming and ways of inhabiting the land are in the process of disappearing, *Shadow: Seasons* is part of an ongoing painting project that documents the agricultural landscape and encroaching development based on interviews and oral stories that I have collected from Alabama farmers.

Shadow: Seasons is an epic treatment of the Four Seasons, representing the continuity and interruptions of Nature's grand cycle in a serial format. Each plane treats a different season but is based on a shared, underlying composition of branches and falling fruit. Each season flows- sometimes whirls- into the next, wrapping the gallery ceiling, walls and floors without a clear end or beginning: winter into spring, summer into fall. The viewer's relationship to space is shifted by an inverted sky and ground, which references a loss of connectedness to land.

I start the paintings outside and trace and retrace shadows of trees, leaves, fruit, and branches on the panels as the sun moves overhead. In the studio, I apply resist, then glazing, then erase the resist to reveal a play between negative voids and solid painted forms underneath the glazes. I use color in contrasting, high-keyed tones to draw on the emotions of the viewer; the palette signifies a highly pitched universe where gravity is negligible and shadows are either fleeting or everlasting. *Shadow: Seasons* reflects the changing 21st century Alabama landscape.