

# Blanchette

## Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

Vol. II No. 6

### The strata of our minds...

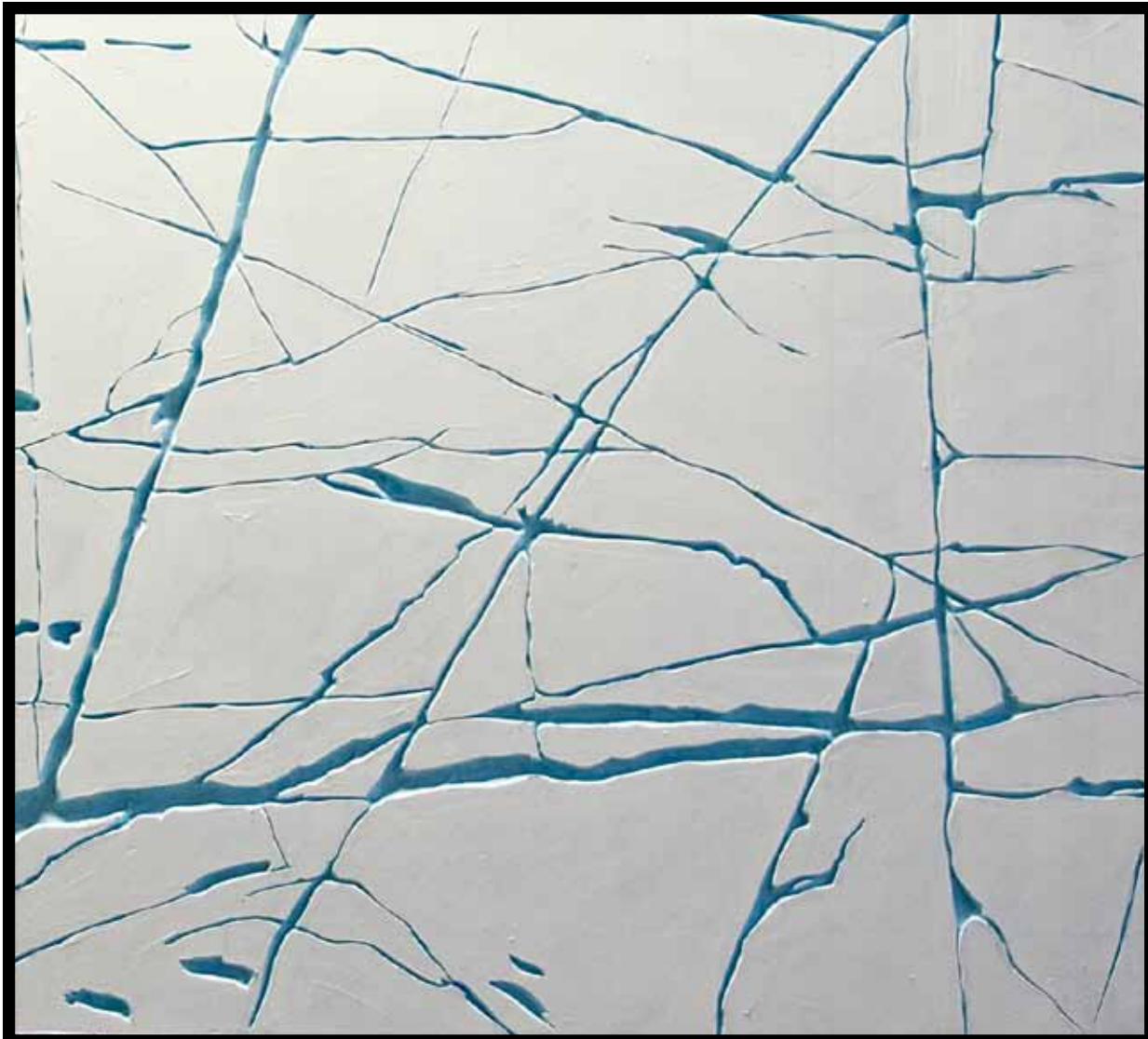
My good friend Peter Roos, artist and bike riding buddy from Walpole, brought a book back for me from a recent encaustic workshop he attended on Cape Cod. The book by Laura Moriarty is titled *Table of Contents*, and is a short interesting artist's book and catalog of her three dimensional encaustic paintings. These works are like miniature studies of geologic strata with her own take on Mother Nature's propensity to open up her geologic history to us in the layers of earth that she exposes during the shifting of her mantle, as well as the eons-long erosion of her surface. Laura's colorful works are not unlike geodes unearthed and sawn open for us to contemplate.

In her book she also introduces us to a number of writers who in turn, introduce us to related thinkers and philosophers who have taken on subjects of time, evolution, art and contemporary cultural thinking. Of the more insightful passages that stayed with me was one by Gilles Deleuze, a 20th century French writer/philosopher who insists that we must "be on the lookout, that is, being open to possibilities of jolts and disturbances by a thought or idea emerging from... various encounters... and towards an active and practical engagement with *la fêlure* (the crack, the edge, the in-between and turning back of an event toward a creative, transformative counter-actualization). He doesn't look at being on the alert for encounters as a method... he is looking for something that "*disturbs him*" (and causes him to take the next creative step).

This is not what all artists do... but I think Peter saw something of my process in Laura's artwork and wanted to offer me this potentially transformative encounter. (He knew I had seen Laura's work in a Keene gallery recently).

Having a friend who is an artist, especially one who can understand what you need in the way of encouragement and support, is something to be treasured. My friend Peter is that kind of friend!

Later this summer, Peter and I will travel to Denmark for a 10 day bicycle tour of the country. Our goal will be to visit museums and castles, as well as take lots of photos and do some drawing along the way. (more on that later)



Iceworks-Glacial #004 (carved and painted styrofoam relief) 2012

Some may see a connection between my encounter with the movements of ice and glaciers and the geologic inspirations of Laura Moriarty like Peter did.