

# ZOLLA/LIEBERMAN GALLERY INC.



## Dennis Lee Mitchell

### *Smoke Remains*

September 6 – October 12, 2019

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"The smoke drawings are means of fixing in place some of the most fleeting of perceptual instances. Whether the eye is drawn inward, as in Mitchell's floral or nebular images, or outward towards the suggestion of the horizon in his landscapes or veils, their uncanny delicacy of form is central to their eloquence. The graceful gestures forming these works visually exciting in a manner that also calls to mind the subtly apparitional aspect of flames in a fireplace, or even the sinister beauty of smoke curling upward from a lit cigarette. Mitchell's smoke operates at the margins of materiality; it is a recorded trace of movement without any of the preserved force or velocity usually visible in a drawn line or smear of paint. These drawings are a kind of armature of the ephemeral, and what's barely present in them as material is indelible in its firing of the imagination."

- excerpt from *where there's smoke*, by Buzz Spector, 2019