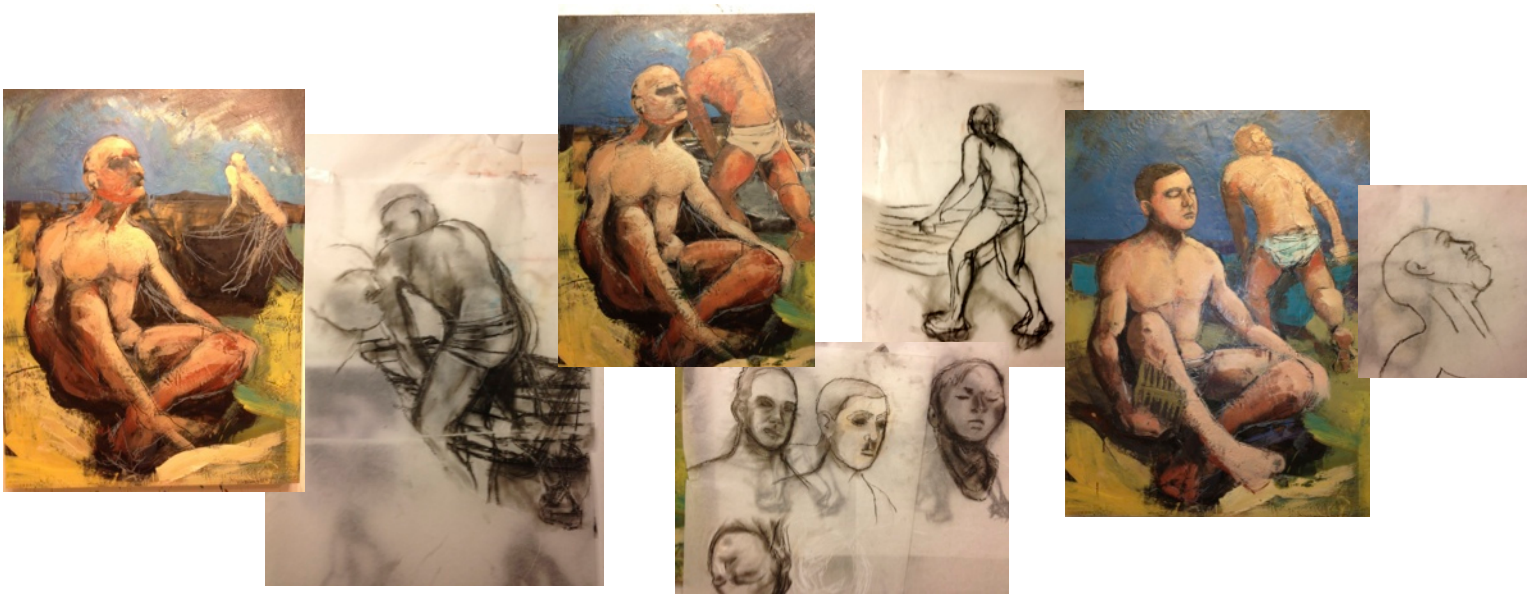
Marc Kundmann

Waiting for His Muse
(Homage to Picasso's *The Pipes of Pan*)
40" x 30"
encaustic, oil stick, shellac, charcoal on birch

A painting of the human figure can be seen as many things: a pure study of the beauty of the human form, a portrait, or even the subject of a narrative.

In Pablo Picasso's *The Pipes of Pan,* the male figures are a study of the beauty of the male form: massive, statuesque, seemingly simple, but with subtle definition. They are beautiful not for their muscular detail, but because of their strength and mythological timelessness.

My goal for this painting was to translate the characters in Picasso's work into a more narrative work of my own, and to continue my exploration of contrasts: action and inaction, still contemplation and brute force, masculinity in strength and vulnerability.

This work marks a return to figure painting for me and is an exploration of developing imagery and composition. I began by writing words on the blank panel with charcoal using expressive gestures. The words crisscrossed and overlapped and eventually I found figures emerging. After broadly revealing the figures suggested by the words with an initial layer of wax, I went to my tracing paper pad and began refining the figures with charcoal drawings. I reversed these and transferred the drawings by burnishing them into the wax and continued the painting from there. This intensive back and forth evolutionary process is shown in the images below.