



PLATE THIRTEEN *Siberian Huskie near the Baltic Sea*

fact, fiction and fantasy, the poignant sense of longing for contact and beauty. Memory is fundamental to meaning. Accordingly, the flurry of possible storylines makes the point that all meaning is constantly in play, stirred by our thoughts and associations.

Toward that end, Chandler's art displays an earnest desire to tantalize the eye, reward the imagination and build upon existing traditions. She works like someone possessed by a desire constantly to verify her own experience. Chandler's identity and background are combined with an interest in other cultures. Admittedly, Chandler credits her place of origin—West Texas—with shaping her artistic sensibilities. As such, *A Collection of Memories* reveals the vital catalysts that demonstrate the variety of Chandler's mediums, methods and expansive visual language. Growing up on the arid plains of

Fort Stockton forced the artist to rely on her imagination for transport to other worlds. She recalls playing fantasy games with friends and cousins, fashioning elaborate "French" costumes of luxurious fabrics, exotic feathers and faux jewels. Her early preoccupation with decorating, presenting and ordering things visually appeared to have been an incipient expression that would emerge as a fundamental element of her adult life. Later, as a student at Oxford University, Chandler investigated her Scottish-English ancestry, exploring country estates in Yorkshire and spending hours in the British Museum reading room. Significantly, Chandler's exploration of temporal themes and environmental subjects may be tied to studies of the late 18th and early 19th century Romantic artists such as Caspar David Friedrich, JMW Turner, and James McNeill Whistler as well as writers from Samuel Taylor Coleridge to John Ruskin.