

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Jim Phalen

La Nature Morte

Jim Phalen's paintings most often present austere arrangements of simple objects laid on a white sheet or countertop. Phalen says, "I often use stark, confrontational compositional choices to make a point, while in other works I allow that process of seeing to take the lead, but in all I'm committed to the practice of painting from life. I paint what's paintable. Many subjects are, for me, unpaintable. A flying bird, a swimming fish – anything in motion, even a smile - cannot be seen in the manner necessary for it to be painted perceptually." Phalen's paintings have no predetermined compositional plan, but rather like a collage in which the pieces form the whole they are about unrelated things that are forced together. The realism is undermined by the contrived placement of the objects, creating an uneasy alliance between the believable renderings and the highly ordered nature of their arrangement.

Phalen concludes, "The greatest works of art are the ones that embody the greatest number of contradictions. Contrast is needed to define things both visually and formally: light and dark, warm and cool, big and small, straight and curved. The principle of contrast applies as well to content: competing elements are vehicles for tension and complexity – in music, writing, or painting...through the process over time something truly revealing happens. Not only is a likeness achieved, but, almost by default, a deeper understanding. When I'm working, I'm able to clear my head and lose myself in the seeing. That's the beauty of fit. It's like the star you see only by looking away."

Jim Phalen was born in 1957 in Phoenix, Arizona. He graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1980 and received his MFA from the University of New Mexico in 1986. His work has been shown in museums through out the county, including a solo show at the Frye Museum in Seattle, the Bellevue Art Museum in Bellevue, Washington and the Bowdoin College Art Museum in Brunswick, Maine. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Pollack-Krasner Foundation grant.

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Jim Phalen

b. Phoenix, AZ 1957

EDUCATION

- 1986 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, Master of Fine Art, Painting and Drawing
- 1985 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, Master of Art, Painting and Drawing
- 1980 San Francisco Art Institute, SF., CA, Bachelor of Fine Art, Sculpture

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 Linda Hodges Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2008 Linda Hodges Gallery, Seattle, WA
Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2003 *Jim Phalen, Undercurrents of the Commonplace*, Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA
- 2002 *Held Still*, Ellen Garvens & Jim Phalen, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2000 Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
John Natsoulas Gallery, Davis, CA
- 1999 *Jim Phalen, Paintings*, Humbolt State University, Arcata, CA
- 1997 *Paintings 1990-97*, University of Puget Sound, Kittridge Gallery, Tacoma, WA
- 1993 *New York/New Mexico*, Graham Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
- 1992 College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY
New York Five, Bachelier-Cardonsky, Gallery, Kent, CT
Kent State University, Canton, OH
- 1991 XOXO Gallery, New York, NY
- 1990 Westchester College, White Plains, NY
- 1986 University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 1985 Kron/Reck Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
Teaching Gallery, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 1982 Pier Space, San Francisco, CA
- 1980 Diego Rivera Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 LA Art Fair, Los Angeles, CA
Chicago Art Fair, Chicago, IL
- 2008 25th Anniversary Exhibition, Linda Hodges Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2005 Group Show, Gallery Artists, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA

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- 2004 Northwest Realism Invitational, Anacortes Arts Festival, Anacortes, WA
Artists Select Artists, Cumberland Gallery, Nashville, TN
- 2003 *Grand Opening*, A&C Fine Art, East Greenwich, RI
Grand Opening, Gallery Artist Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2002 *Perception of Experience; A Decade of Contemporary American Figure
Drawing*, Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA
- 2001 *Figure Eight*, Diane Nelson Fine Art, Long Beach, CA
Realism Invitational, Van De Griff/Marr Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
Group Show, Caroline Blake Gallery, Charleston, SC
- 2000 John Natsoulas Gallery, *Grand Opening*, Davis, CA
- 1999 John Natsoulas Gallery, *All Creatures*, Davis, CA
- 1998 Cornish College of the Arts, *New Faculty*, Seattle, WA
- 1999 Bellvue Art Museum, *Leonardo Lives*, Bellevue, WA
- 1996 Bowdoin College Museum of Art, *Certain Uncertainties; Chaos and the Human
Experience*, Brunswick, ME. Other artists included Jasper Johns,
Joseph Cornell, Eva Hessa and Wayne Thiebaud
- 1994 Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY. *45th New York Exhibition*
- 1993 Caplan Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
Small Works, A National Competition Juried by Arnold Glimpser, Owner,
Pace Gallery, New York University, New York, NY
Kent State University, Canton, OH
- 1992 *Salon Show*, Herron Test Site, Brooklyn, NY
New York University, *Small Works*, A National Competition Juried by Brooke
Alaxander, Brooke Alaxander Gallery, New York, NY
Evento, ApE Gallery, New York, NY
Groupings, Westchester Gallery, White Plains, NY
- 1991 New York University, *Small Works*, A National Competition, NY, NY
- 1988 *Paintings*, BOCA Downtown, Brooklyn, NY
- 1986 *Statements, Prominent New Mexico Artists*, Albuquerque, NM
- 1985 *The Figure*, Kron/Reck Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
- 1980 *Painterly*, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2006 Ballinglen Fellow, Ballinglen Arts Foundation, Artists Residency, Ballycastle,
County Mayo, Ireland
- 2000 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, NY, NY
Artist Trust/Washington State Arts Commission Fellowship, WA
- 1997 Artist Trust Grant, Seattle, WA
- 1986 Jonson Award, Albuquerque, NM, MFA Exhibit, University of New
Mexico

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

1980 First Prize, Student Exhibition, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2003 *New American Painting*, Open Studios Press, Boston, MA
- 2001 Carasso, Roberta, *Orange County Register*, Thursday, Oct. 11
- 1998 *New American Painting*, Open Studios Press, Wellesley, MA
- 1996 Bowdoin College Art Museum, *Certain Uncertainties; Chaos and the Human Experience*, exhibition catalog, Painting, Photo & Print, Brunswick, ME
- 1994 Albright-Knox Art Gallery, exhibition catalog, *45th Annual New York Exhibit*, Buffalo, NY
- 1992 Raynor, Vivian, *The New York Times*, Sunday, Aug. 2

TEACHING

- 2003-2005 University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, Visiting Asst. Professor, Painting and Drawing
- 2001 University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, Adjunct Professor, Drawing, Painting and 2D Design
- 2001 Rome Program. Rome, Italy. Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Visiting Professor, Drawing
- Bellevue Art Museum, Figure Drawing, Drawing
- 1998-99 University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, Visiting Assistant Professor, Drawing, Painting and 2-D Design
- 1997-98 Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA, Visiting Assistant Professor, Painting, Drawing and Figure Drawing
- 1997 University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Visiting Lecturer, Drawing
- 1996-97 University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, Visiting Assistant Professor, Drawing, Painting, Printmaking and 2-D Design
- 1996 University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Visiting Lecturer, 2-D Design & Drawing
- 1995 Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, Visiting Assistant Professor of Art, Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking and Advanced Studio of Interdisciplinary 2D and 3D
- 1994 New York State University College at Buffalo, Visiting Assistant Professor, Figure Drawing and Advanced Painting
- 1991-92 College of New Rochelle, NY. Drawing and Painting