

# DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

## Gary Ruddell

July 14 – September 1, 2012

Realistically rendered human figures are depicted balancing on highwires, planks, and drifting logs, flying and spinning through the air like acrobats, and leaping across chasms in Gary Ruddell's highly narrative paintings. The spaces his subjects inhabit, however, are amorphous, non-objective, and often work upon his subjects' bodies to dematerialize their features, breaking down their solidity as if to highlight human impermanence and to challenge the singularity of human experience. The unique relationship that Ruddell orchestrates between representation and abstraction figures prominently in *Study for Fire and Ice* (2012). While the interlocking hands and forearms of what look like two trapeze artists in flight are depicted with naturalistic precision, their bodies grow increasingly illegible before ultimately coalescing into the surrounding environment as abstracted currents of color and form. Such formal tensions call to mind the painter Gerhard Richter, who smears, wipes, scrapes, and squeegees his paintings' photorealistic elements to undermine and challenge expectations and easy categorization.

Somewhat ironically, the tensions Ruddell orchestrates between seemingly disparate elements—and the viewer's desire for resolution—fosters a sense of formal and psychological balance. As *Man on Wire* (2012) directly demonstrates, a certain degree of tension is necessary for tightrope walkers to properly balance on their wires. Both formally and conceptually, balance and harmony are central themes for Ruddell, who describes his paintings as "visual statements about coming together" in an era dominated by international ethnic and religious warfare and the undeterred rise of the military-industrial complex. This "coming together" is underscored by a recurring motif in which two figures are seen leaping toward each other in an act predicated on faith and trust. Though we expect the figures to lock arms, Ruddell depicts them at that vulnerable moment right before they "catch" each other. Aided by a moody palette of deep blues, grays, browns, and rusts and a predilection for dramatic tonal contrast, these frozen, powerful moments cause the viewer to stop, quietly consider, and reflect.

Gary Ruddell was born in San Mateo, CA, in 1951 and graduated from the California College of Arts and Crafts with a BFA in 1975. In addition to exhibiting across the United States, Ruddell's work can also be found in prominent private and public collections.

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## Gary Ruddell

b. San Mateo, CA 1951

### EDUCATION

1975 B.F.A. California College of Arts and Crafts

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Recent Work, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2009 New Paintings, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
Two-Man Show, Susan Greenwood Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
2008 Gallery Henoeh, New York, NY  
2006 Small Changes, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2005 Two-Man Show, Greenwood Chebithes Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA  
2004 Reckless Dreamers, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2003 Two Man Show, New Work, Greenwood Chebithes Gallery, Laguna Beach,  
CA  
2002 Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Group Show, Gallery Henoeh, New York, NY  
2011 Group Show, Art Space 712, curated by Theophilus Brown, San  
Francisco, CA  
Group Show, Gallery Henoeh, New York, NY  
2010 Contemporary Realism, M.A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, OK  
Group Show, Gallery Henoeh, New York, NY  
2011 Group Show, Gallery Henoeh, New York, NY  
2009 The Genesis of Bay Area Figurative Art Now, Juried by Theophilus Brown,  
Art Space 712, San Francisco, CA  
A Figural Presence, Alva deMars Megan Chapel Art Center, Manchester,  
2008 Group Show, Gallery Henoeh, New York, NY  
2007 49th International Award Exhibition, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego,  
CA  
40 Years: A Dealer's Collection, Gallery Henoeh, New York, NY  
Group Show, Gallery Henoeh, New York, NY  
72nd Annual Cooperstown Art Association Exhibition, Cooperstown, NY  
Nicolet College Annual Art Competition, Rhineland, WI  
2005 Group Show, San Diego Museum of Living Artists, San Diego, CA  
Group Show, Falkirk Cultural Center, Marin County, CA  
Group Show, Gallery Henoeh, New York, NY

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- 2003 Group Show, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
Group show, Marin Arts Council, Falkirk Center of the Arts, Marin County, CA
- 2002 Group show, Inaugural Exhibition, Greenwood Chebithes Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA  
Group Show, Palm Springs Desert Museum, Juried by Michael Zakian, Ph.D.  
Individual Artist Grant for excellence in the field of Painting  
Marin Arts Council, Lance Walker, Director
- 2001 American Landscapes 2001, Maryland Federation of Art, Annapolis, Maryland, Juried by Gary Vikan  
International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA  
Pleiades Gallery, New York City, NY, Juried by Lisa Dennison, Deputy Director of Group Show, Guggenheim Museum  
2001 National Exhibition, Cooperstown Art Association, NY  
National Works on Paper, University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, TX  
Watermedia Twelve Competition, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO, Juried by Judi Betts  
Group Show, Touchstone Gallery, Washington D.C.
- 1999 Stephen F. Austin State University, Figuration in Contemporary Art Texas National 1999 Exhibit, Juried by James McGarrell  
Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, CA National Juried Competition of Contemporary Painting, Juried by William Wilson  
Holter Museum of Art, National Juried Exhibition, Juried by Peter Plagens
- 1998 33rd Annual Open Exhibition, San Bernardino County Museum of Art, San Bernardino, CA, National Juried Competition of Contemporary Painting  
27th National Exhibition, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT, Juried by Peter Frank  
Edward Thorp Gallery - First Street Gallery, National Competition, Group Show, Juried by Edward Thorp, Director, New York, NY  
San Diego Museum of Art, Artists Guild All California Juried Exhibition, San Diego, CA  
Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas National 1998 Exhibit, Juried by Martha Erlebacher, Group Show, Figuration in Contemporary Art  
1998 Crocker Kingsley Biennial Exhibition, Juried by Sam Hernandez, University of Santa Clara Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
- 1997 26th National Exhibition, Juried by Jaune Quick-to-See Smith  
Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT  
St. John's University, New York, NY

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- University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO  
University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, TX  
Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ
- 1996 San Bernardino County Museum of Art, San Bernardino, CA  
Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, CA
- 1995 San Diego Art Institute, San Diego Museum of Art, CA  
Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, CA
- 1993 San Diego Art Institute, San Diego Museum of Art, CA  
Cheekwood Tennessee Museum of Art, TN
- 1992 San Bernardino County Museum of Art, San Bernardino, CA  
National Juried Competition of Contemporary Painting  
67th Annual Crocker-Kingsley Exhibition, Crocker Museum of Art,  
Sacramento, CA Juried by Henry Hopkins

## AWARDS & HONORS

- 2009 Honorable Mention in Painting, The Genesis of Bay Area Figurative Art  
Now, Art Space 712, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 Special Merit Excellence Award, Annual Northern Juried Competition,  
Rhineland, WI
- 2005 Hoffman Trust Award, San Diego Museum of Living Artists, CA
- 2005 Distinctive Honor Award in Painting, Falkirk Center for the Arts, CA
- 2003 Individual Artist Grant for Excellence in the Field of Painting, Marin Arts  
Council, CA
- 1999 Honorable Mention in Painting, Stephen F. Austin State University, TX
- 1998 Merit Award in Painting, Holter Museum of Art, MT
- 1995 Best of Show, Painting, Palm Springs Desert Museum of Art, CA
- 1993 Marin Arts Council Award for Artistic Excellence, Marin Arts Council, CA  
Award of Excellence in Painting, California State Fair Art Exhibition, CA