

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Chelsea James

Souvenirs of Solitude

June 3 – June 26, 2010

The impressionistic quality of Chelsea James' landscapes and interiors reveals the measured stroke of a mature and confident artist. She skillfully endows her traditional subject matter—an atypical choice for such a young age—with a sensitivity and lyricism verging on the precocious. And though James' paintings derive from her experiences within the world, they are also intimately mediated through the artist's own temperament and interpretative sensibilities.

[My paintings are] a reflection of who I am and what I've experienced. I choose objects that evoke childhood memories, create situations of atmospheric mystery, and bring visual interest through interaction. I'm intrigued by subtle shifts in value and color; yet seek a personal interpretation of the objects rather than a replication.

– Chelsea James

Inspired by van Gogh's drawings during a trip to Amsterdam, James' abstracted renderings of San Francisco, Utah and Africa, amongst other settings, evoke the palpable atmosphere and formal unity of the Dutchman's landscapes. This same awareness of atmosphere's affective power is evident in James' most recent series of interiors depicting lone industrial sinks and vast institutional hallways. Though bereft of actual human presence, half-empty bottles of soap, a folding chair, and pristinely polished floors give James' scenes the imprint of recent occupancy. Desolation is overcome by a sense of quiet solitude and calm, a mood reinforced by James' muted color palette and softly shifting tonalities.

Chelsea James earned a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Utah in 2006. During her undergraduate career, she was the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards and has since shown work at a several galleries and museums throughout Utah and California. Southwest Magazine, Salt Lake City Magazine and, most recently, Design Sponge, have praised her as a talented artist on the rise, one whose technical prowess and earnest imagination render her worthy of close attention. This will be James' first solo show at the Dolby Chadwick Gallery.

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EDUCATION

2006 University of Utah, BFA in Painting and Drawing
Helper Workshops, Helper Utah

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012 Bakersfield Museum of Art (two person show), Bakersfield, CA
Kayo, Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT

2010 Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2009 Finch Lane Gallery (two person show), Salt Lake City, UT
Coda Gallery (two person show), Salt Lake City, UT

2006 Williams Fine Art (two person show), Salt Lake City, UT
Spring Show, Magpies Gallery (two person show), Salt Lake City, UT
Anniversary Show, Magpies Nest, Salt Lake City, UT (also in 2002)

2002 Intercollegiate Show, Gittens Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT
Print Gumbo, Gittens Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2011 de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara, CA

2008 Wing Selected Alumni Show, Salt Lake City, UT

2006 Final Show, Poor Yorrik, Salt Lake City, UT

2004 Upcoming Artists, Coda Gallery, Palm Desert, CA

2003 Student Show, Gittens Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT (also in 2002)

PUBLICATIONS

New American Paintings, December 2011

First Thursday Openings to Catch 7x7 Magazine, June 2010

Selected in Studio Visit Magazine, May 2010

Spotlighted in The Artist Magazine "Sketchbooks", February 2010

Featured in Salt Lake City Magazine "Upcoming Artists", September 2006

Featured in Southwest Magazine "Artists to Watch", February 2005

Selected in Art Talk Magazine "Artist Worth Watching" 2004

HONORS AND AWARDS

2006 Howard Clark Scholarship

2003 Helper Studio Group, Artist in Residence

2003 Helper Landscape Competition Award of Merit

2003 Special Merit Award in Helper Landscape Competition

2002-03 Christiansen Scholarship

2000 Nomination for Anne Beisse Outstanding Art Student of the Year Award

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