

# DAVID B SMITH GALLERY

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## MIKE STILKEY SOLO EXHIBITION

“WORDS FAIL ME”

September 18, 2009 – October 10, 2009

**DENVER - David B. Smith Gallery** is proud to present *Words Fail Me*, a solo exhibition of new work by artist Mike Stilkey. This series, featuring abstract figurative paintings and mixed-media sculptures, will be on display from September 18, 2009 through October 10, 2009. A reception for the artist will be held on Friday, September 18th, 2009 from 7 PM to 10 PM.

Utilizing a mix of ink, colored pencil, paint and lacquer, Mike Stilkey's work features a melancholic and at times whimsical cast of characters, with an aesthetic reminiscent of Weimer-era German expressionism. Inhabiting an ambiguous environment, his subjects convey a lingering sense of loss and longing. Stilkey reaches beyond the formal confines of painting and drawing, using such materials as record covers, book pages and book covers to create the spaces in which his characters exist. The artist's work melds the visual world with the literal. Examining the limitations and interchangeability of the communicative process, Stilkey's work reinvents the canvas to push boundaries between words, visual art and music.

In addition to his body of work, Stilkey will be creating a large-scale installation for *Words Fail Me*. The artist will be taking an upright piano and covering every square inch of it in book covers. Above it, a collage of sheet music will suspend from the ceiling. Atop the piano, where the line sheets would normally be placed, the artist will replace the musical notes with words. This sculpture will bring the artist's goal of intertwining the visual, literary and musical full circle.

Los Angeles Native Mike Stilkey's work has been exhibited in art fairs and galleries throughout the world, including exhibitions in Los Angeles, Miami, New York and Switzerland.

### About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is Denver's venue for emerging contemporary art. Since its founding in 2007, the gallery has been committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions featuring work from some of today's most compelling artists with growing international reputations. Through participation in leading art fairs and extensive media coverage, David Smith has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. In August 2008, The New York Times hailed the Gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works." In addition to its curatorial program, David B. Smith maintains an active publishing division, Limited Addiction, which produces limited edition artist prints and monographs.

### Media Contact:

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