

DAVID B SMITH GALLERY

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YOKO TANAKA, KATHERINE GUILLEN AND ANDREA OFFERMANN

November 21, 2009 – December 26, 2009

DENVER – David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present the concluding show of the 2009 Season, with Yoko Tanaka, Katherine Guillen and Andrea Offermann. The exhibition will run from November 21st, 2009 through December 26th, 2009. This exhibit continues the exploration of the relationship between nature and the ideal, between nature and science, and between the animal and human worlds. A public reception will be held on Saturday, November 21st, 2009 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., with Yoko Tanaka and Katherine Guillen in attendance.

Yoko Tanaka creates haunting acrylic paintings that explore the relationship between human and animal life. Her work features human-like and non-human creatures that exist in somber, fanciful landscapes. In these works, Tanaka urges the viewer to compare the animal lives depicted in her paintings to our own. These creatures are humanized; rabbits are shown playing children's games and wearing clothing, suggesting that these creatures are not so removed from us. However, the artist also seems to be saying that the border between the animal and human worlds is still ambiguous. While the rabbits personify human traits, they still lack the self-awareness, rationality and culture of humans and they appear awkward and almost uncomfortable. It is up to the viewer to consider these opposing points of view. Tanaka occasionally illustrates books, and her most recent project is "The Magician's Elephant" by Kate DiCamillo. She currently resides in Thailand, and is preparing for a move to France next year.

Katherine Guillen's paintings find inspiration in the idea of the monument, both as an architectural celebration and as emotional and historical expression. Her exploration of the idea of the monument began with the misread phrase, "monument to the unknown." Guillen argues that out of context, monuments are always "to the unknown," speaking more towards our desire to order nature and defy mortality, rather than to articulate and memorialize an actual event or person. Her landscapes are inhabited by these monument abstractions and illustrate the conflicts between nature and human beings. In the human desire to create, build and idealize, which Guillen describes as being "both our redemption and our failing," the struggle to achieve balance and order becomes the challenge.

The paintings of German based artist Andrea Offermann address the juxtaposition of science and nature and the natural and mechanical worlds. Her current body of work focuses on the motives behind scientific research, "the drive to understand, to recreate, to adjust, to manipulate and to leave a mark on the face of the earth to be remembered by." Her work portrays surrealistic building stations that recreate animals on a large scale as perfected machines, or show masses of discarded shells of these creations, reminiscent of ancient animal fossils. In exploring the relationships between the mind, machines and nature, Offermann comments on the creativity of the human mind and its ability to both recreate and leave an imprint on nature.

All three of these artists offer a unique perspective on the relationships between nature, science, idealism and order. Their work will engage you, challenge you to think and draw you into the dialogue.

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About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is Denver's venue for emerging contemporary art. Since it's 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 in publications such as The New York Times, The Denver Post, Juxtapoz Magazine and art ltd. magazine, 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

David B. Smith | Gallery Director
T: 303.893.4234 | press@davidbsmithgallery.com
1543 A Wazee Street
Denver, CO 80202