

# DAVID B SMITH GALLERY

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**Dena Schuckit: *The Garden is a Raging Sea*  
August 27 – September 25, 2010  
Opening Reception: Friday, August 27, 7pm – 10pm  
Free and open to the Public  
Artist in Attendance**

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DENVER – The David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to announce *The Garden is a Raging Sea*, a solo exhibition featuring new paintings and prints by Dena Schuckit. Schuckit is internationally recognized for her work as a Master Printer with Crown Point Press in San Francisco and currently lives and works in London. The exhibition will open Friday, August 27, 2010 and run through Saturday, September 25, 2010. Please join us on Friday, August 27 from 7pm to 10pm for a reception with the artist.

*The garden is a raging sea,  
The hurricane is snarling;  
Oh, happy you and happy me!  
Isn't the lightning darling?  
From Ogden Nash, "A Watched Example Never Boils"*

Schuckit's paintings initially greet the viewer as abstract compositions with collisions of line and color. They appear as foreign landscapes, full of allure and mystery, that become more discernible as the viewer looks closer. News photographs that accompany the headlines of urban and natural disasters infiltrate Schuckit's compelling work. Her painterly and poetic compositions are, in fact, images derived from plane crashes, automobile accidents, war, fire, and the aftermath of severe weather. Yet, despite the origin of the works, like the lightning in the Nash poem, the images and colors in Schuckit's work are surprisingly beautiful.

Schuckit collects entire slide shows of photos from online news sites. By ordering and organizing them, she captures the drama and dynamism of the disaster and the surprising and unplanned landscape that is the deconstructed physical manifestation of these events. She imparts an order to the chaos, and in the painting that emerges, pattern, shape, color and event overlap and repeat in a complex and connected way that highlights the relationship between civilization and nature. Placed out of context, there is a strange and unexpected beauty in these source images that transcends the specific incident and becomes unrelated to the reality of the event. The contrast between disaster and sheer beauty makes these works highly unusual and unique.

An essay by Leanne Haase Goebel will accompany the exhibition.

**About the Artist**

Dena Schuckit received her BFA in 1992 from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and her MFA from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London. She was a Master Printer with Crown Point Press for twelve years. Schuckit has had numerous shows in London, and will be exhibiting in Denver and New York this year. Her work is featured in collections at the University of the Arts, London and the Parsons School of Design, New York.

**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.