

DAVID B SMITH GALLERY

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Ricky Allman: Surface flaws render light reflections unreliable

December 16, 2011 – January 14, 2012

Opening Reception: Friday, December 16th, 7–9 pm

Free and open to the public. Artist in attendance.

Denver - The David B. Smith Gallery is very pleased to welcome Ricky Allman for his second solo exhibition at the Gallery. The exhibition will include large complex paintings, along with a selection of smaller pieces most recently on view at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Missouri. Please join us for a reception with Ricky Allman on Friday, December 16 from 7 - 9 pm.

Allman's work is distinctive. Born and raised in Utah, his paintings reflect the influence of geography, religion and the reshaping of a world-view impacted by travel and different ways of thinking. Immense mountainous landscapes and the fear of an impending apocalypse are present in his work. But so too, is a love for complicated spaces and vivid color, and a more optimistic world-view. Present, and in some cases dominating the work, are bursts of colorful confetti and neon colored swirls, rich with vibrancy and the joy of life, reflecting optimism and hope. "I'm confident we as a species will figure out how to make things work," he says.

Allman is an intuitive painter. He works with small parts or elements, and does not follow plans, sketches or formulas. He paints whatever he feels moved to paint, or what he gravitates towards, and then determines the conceptual framework as the painting evolves. Allman explains, "The joy is in doodling, accidental surprises, and unexpected placement of forms, colors and layers and figuring out a way to make connections."

It is the spontaneity, the movement and the vibrancy of color and line, which make Allman's work so exciting. The complexity of each piece, the collision of shapes and vibrating colors, the explosions within the moving planes, and the experimentation with contrasting surfaces and layers of paint, creates an environment that completely engages the viewer. One can easily lose oneself in the exploration of these unique environments.

About the Artist

Ricky Allman lives and works in Kansas City, Missouri. He is an Associate Professor of Painting and Drawing at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Allman received a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and an MFA from Rhode Island School of Design in 2007. In 2011, Allman was selected by a national curatorial panel of advisors to receive a Charlotte Street Foundation award. The Portsmouth Museum of Fine Art will host an exhibition with the artist in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 2012.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is Denver's venue for compelling 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 dynamic 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. *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, which produces limited edition artist prints and monographs.