

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

**Leon Benn**  
***Fields of Vision***

October 6 – November 4, 2017

Opening Reception: Friday, October 6, 2017, 6 - 8pm

Artist walkthrough: Friday, October 6, 2017, 6:30pm

Free and open to the public / Artist in Attendance

In his first solo exhibition with David B. Smith Gallery, Leon Benn floods the main gallery with large-scale paintings bounding with vibrant colors and hallucinatory observations of macro and microenvironments. Inspired by his deeply rooted relationship with nature, in particular the forests and coastlines surrounding his studio in Portland, Maine, Benn's *Fields of Vision* come in and out of focus, blending aesthetic and conceptual elements into a distinctly textured presentness.

The process involved in creating these works is key, starting with batik dyeing of hand selected Moroccan linen, which leads into drawings created with light projections, finished off with a swirling and churning application of layer upon layer of oil paints and pastels. There is a holistic connection between what Benn describes as the natural choreography of nature and the intricate surfaces of his works. Time spent near glistening creek beds and lichen covered rocks is collected and internalized, later reemerging onto canvas in bursts of technicolor euphoria.

The accumulation of environmental and artistic elements involved in Benn's work results in a riotous balance of abstraction, curiosity, and revelation. According to Benn, his paintings "illuminate the way the artist's mind makes an internal cerebral photograph of the landscape and helps further understand our complicated yet important relationship to the environment." Captured on canvas yet seemingly in perpetual motion, the mundane and the fantastical occupy every corner of all discernible *Fields of Vision*.



Leon Benn, *Morning on Crockett Cove*, 64 x 48 in.  
(162.56 x 121.92cm), oil pastel and fabric dyes on Moroccan linen.

**About Leon Benn**

Leon Benn (b. 19881, Philadelphia, PA) received his B.F.A. in Illustration from Rhode Island School of Design and his M.F.A. in Painting from University of California, Los Angeles. Benn's work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Roberts & Tilton in Los Angeles, CA, Stems Gallery in Brussels, Belgium, and Carter & Citizen in Los Angeles, CA. Benn currently lives and works in Portland, Maine.

**About David B. Smith Gallery**

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery 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" and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.