



Seattle University
Fine Arts Department
Lee Center for the Arts
Hedreen Gallery

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Kill Date: January 13, 2008

EXHIBIT: Unexpected Watercolors
ARTISTS: Tori Ellison, Michael Knutson, Kim McCarty,
Laura Ross Paul and Jeffrey Simmons
MEDIUM: Watercolor
OPENING: Thursday November 1st 5:00 - 7:30pm
RUN OF SHOW: November 2nd 2007 – January 12th 2008

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday 1:30-6:00pm
ADMISSION: open to the public, always free
LOCATION: Seattle University Lee Center for the Arts
901 12th Avenue (at 12th & Marion)
FOR MORE INFO CALL: 206.296.2244

Seattle - With its unrivaled rainfall, myriad lakes and rivers, and its proximity to the ocean, the Pacific Northwest's natural environment seems a perfect place to foster explorations in watercolor. From Mark Tobey to Morris Graves, there is a long tradition of work within this medium. Today that tradition continues, as artists explore the translucent and graceful properties of watercolor. Exhibiting significant, rich, and provocative compositions, *Unexpected Watercolors* brings together a range of work that shows how artists in our region are pushing the medium in new ways.

Tori Ellison, Michael Knutson and Jeffrey Simmons control their paint, resisting the loose, soft physical nature of watercolors. In Simmons' glowing geometric compositions, countless layers of transparent color come together to create broad tonal ranges that generate an illusion of internal light. Knutson's crisp-edged layers of color reveal a propensity for geometry. A system of intersecting lines in Knutson's work creates exciting rhythms and variations that play with our eyes. Ellison's panels of stretched paper let light through, which means that forms seem to float in space with a kind of structural autonomy.

Kim McCarty and Laura Ross-Paul, on the other hand, emphasize the inherent qualities of the medium and let paint bleed across their compositions. Using watercolor to explore images of adolescent vulnerability, McCarty delicately balances her images between abstraction and realism. Young bodies emerge from washes of paint and vulnerable subjects stand stoically in puddles of color. Ross-Paul also seems to slowly unveil a private reality in her compositions in which images form out of accumulated soaked marks and figures almost pull themselves out of paint.

Together, these five artists reveal watercolor paintings as diverse, dynamic and thriving in the Pacific Northwest.

Artist Bios:

Tori Ellison, lives and works in Seattle. Her work been exhibited at the Portland Art Museum, the Bellevue Art Museum, and New York's Grey Art Gallery.

Michael Knutson is chair of the Art Department at Reed College and is represented by Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle.

Kim McCarty lives in Los Angeles. She is represented by Cherry and Martin Gallery, Los Angeles, and Nicholas Robinson Gallery, New York.

Laura Ross-Paul lives in Portland and is represented by Portland's Froelick Gallery and Seattle's Pacini Lubel Gallery.

Jeffery Simmons lives in Seattle and is also represented by Greg Kucera Gallery.

Unexpected Watercolors was organized with consultation from co-curators of the 2005 exhibition *Unexpected Watercolors* for The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Oregon January 2005 : Trude Parkinson, art faculty and Terri Hopkins, director/curator.

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Hedreen Gallery Mission:

The Hedreen Gallery at the Lee Center for the Arts is dedicated to the vibrancy of Seattle's artistic community. Our mission is to support the work of emerging artists and exhibit new work by established artists: local, national, international. We strive to catalyze artistic process and dialogue: to connect artists, audiences, and resources: and to engage the community in the arts.

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