

DAVID B SMITH GALLERY

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KRIS LEWIS SOLO EXHIBITION

AUGUST 22, 2009 – SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

DENVER - David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present a solo exhibition of figurative paintings by artist Kris Lewis. This collection of new works, surrealist portraits inspired by Lewis' rich family history, will be on display from August 22 through September 13, 2009. A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2009 from 7 PM to 10 PM.

Born and raised in suburban New Jersey, Kris Lewis draws upon his own familial relationships as source material. Growing up in a family that included seven brothers and one sister, Lewis finds limitless inspiration from his mother. An immigrant who was forced to flee from communist forces in her home country of Latvia, Kris' mother raised their entire family on her own after separating from his father. She instilled in him a love of Latvian heritage and its traditions, which shine through as a major influence in his work today. Lewis' family history not only manifests as characters and their relationship to the particular background of the pieces, but also in the emotions and expressions of the figures presented.

Lewis utilizes this influence to portray characters that masterfully display juxtaposition between strength and fragility. Often creating photorealistic depictions of slight yet dignified subjects, the artist draws loosely upon his references to inspire completely imagined scenes and a unique emotionality. His subjects act as vessels for hidden stories, delicate emotion and universal truth. In addition to incorporating symbols of the Bible and the Renaissance, Lewis' affinity for the masters of old is apparent in his depiction of the human figure. Subtly weaving contemporary imagery such as tattoos and modern clothing into classical settings, Lewis' work conveys a timeless quality in which subject's expression takes center stage.

Kris Lewis studied at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, before relocating to Los Angeles where he lives and works today. His work has been exhibited in galleries throughout world, including exhibitions in L.A., San Francisco, Seattle, New York, Miami, London, and Hong Kong. Lewis' works have also been featured publications such as *Modern Painters*, *Juxtapoz* and *American Art Collector*. He has also collaborated on a number of projects with musician will.i.am of Black Eyed Peas.

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.

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