

# DAVID B SMITH GALLERY

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### Robert Hardgrave: *Relic*

December 17, 2010 – January 15, 2011

Opening Reception: December 17, 7pm – 10pm

Free and open to the public. Artist in attendance.

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DENVER – The David B. Smith Gallery is proud to announce its last exhibition of the 2010 Season, *Relic*, a solo show by Robert Hardgrave, a mixed media artist who uses ink, acrylic and collage. The work has been described as fresh, unpredictable, spontaneous and exciting, evolving from his positive philosophy, from his spontaneous way of working, and from his use of cultural motifs.

While Hardgrave sees “an inexhaustible supply of negativity” in the world in which we live, he believes in the opportunity to transform, and in so doing, take this world to a more hopeful place. By exploring different configurations, and reusing leftovers and scraps, Hardgrave considers the flat canvas a starting point that leads to new insights about pictorial and sculptural forms. Pieces become surfaces that Hardgrave destroys only to take their remains to build something new, to create “triumphs of both form and spirit.”

Hardgrave’s fascination with the unpredictability of life is reflected in his approach to his work. He begins without an overall plan or formula, and allows the imagery to manifest itself, creating an exercise in spontaneity. It is, in short, a dedication to the discovery process, and a commitment to the hope and belief that something positive will always be the result of the work of creating and building.

Guided by his personal and philosophical outlook, and by the way he approaches his art, Hardgrave has also been inspired by cultural motifs from around the world. Interested in marks that have been made across time on baskets, textiles and vessels, Hardgrave uses these as starting points, considering not just the marks themselves, but also the objects on which they are painted. Looking at these objects in their sculptural forms, Hardgrave translates them into vessels for ideas, taking the leftovers, the scrap and the relics and presenting them as something hopeful.

### About the Artist

Robert Hardgrave lives and works in Seattle, Washington, and exhibits both nationally and internationally. His work has been shown in numerous group shows around the United States, and in solo shows in New York and Los Angeles, and has been published in several books and magazines.

### 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. 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.