

# DAVID B SMITH GALLERY

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

**Media Contact:**

David B. Smith | Gallery Director  
T: 303.893.4234 | david@davidbsmithgallery.com

**Kris Lewis**

**May 20, 2011 – June 18, 2011**

**Opening Reception: Friday, May 20, 7pm – 10pm**

**Free and open to the public. Artist in attendance.**

---

DENVER – The David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present a solo exhibition of portraits by artist Kris Lewis. This expertly executed collection of new paintings will be on display from May 20 through June 18, 2011. A reception with the artist will be held on Friday, May 20, from 7pm – 10pm.

Kris Lewis's portraits are unique in the emotional involvement he invokes in his viewers. His works depict characters caught between strength and fragility, creating a feeling of mystery and isolation. They are painted within environments that are both unexpected and out of the ordinary. Lewis explains, "I want them to be real, but off slightly, so that viewers ask, what is odd about this?" The figures are incredibly realistic, but somewhere in the portrait is a subtle distortion of the figure itself, the perspective, or the environment that the person could not, or should not be in. Through the facial expressions, the gestures, and the physical presentation of the individual, Lewis expresses powerful emotions, which pull the viewer into the painting, fully intrigued with the story behind the portrait. In each piece, Lewis weaves an existence replete with love, conflict, beauty, tradition, fear or isolation.

Kris Lewis takes much of his inspiration from his mother who taught him the importance of hard work, dedication and a love of tradition. As an immigrant who had to flee from communist forces in her home country of Latvia, she instilled in her son a love of his heritage. Lewis combined this with an appreciation for the old masters, such as Hans Holbein, Albrecht Durer and Hieronymus Bosch, and such additional masters of portraiture such as Andrew Wyeth and Gustav Klimt. It is the depiction of the human figure as a vessel for hidden stories, both strong and delicate emotions and universal truths, that gives Lewis's work its luminescence, its deep attractiveness and its impact.

**About the Artist**

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 the world, including exhibitions in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Miami, London and Hong Kong. He has had solo exhibitions at the David B. Smith Gallery and been shown in many international art fairs. His works have been featured in numerous publications and art magazines, and his painting, *Sprung*, is currently on the cover of *American Art Collector Magazine*, May 2011 issue.

**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 Gallery was recently called an "art magnet that never disappoints." 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, which produces limited edition artist prints and monographs.