

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - APRIL 5, 2017



Opening Reception: Friday, April 21, 2017 from 5-8pm at The Rice Gallery of Fine Art

The Rice Gallery of Fine Art is proud to announce our upcoming group show exhibition, ***The Abstract Show***, an exploration of non-representational paintings by three of the region's most accomplished painters, **Seth Smith, Cally Krallman, & Zak Barnes**. This very special show opens **Friday, April 21, 2017** and will feature all new abstract works.

Working with a conservator for years in the back room of a museum, **Seth Smith** saw paintings in many states of disrepair and compromise. He fell in love with the beautifully rendered surfaces that had been scarred by time and erosion and their various colors that were vibrant yet concealed at the same time. This paradox made a lasting impression on his abstract style of painting. "My abstract landscapes begin as an impressionistic landscape," says Smith, "and then I intentionally degrade the painting surface and feign the classic aging process. By doing so, I'm reflecting the imperfect and absolute beauty I see in nature and in the passing of time on all things."

Though her approach differs from Smith, **Cally Krallman's** abstracts are also rooted in traditional representational landscapes. She distorts the landscape in such a way that it creates an ethereal effect. Regarding her process, Cally says, "I begin with photos I have taken and look for basic compositional qualities, i.e. the rule of thirds, strong diagonals, etc. I might use Photoshop effects to 'blur' the photo to be able to see the shapes abstractly. I then begin with a wash of color on my canvas, either in a similar color or complementary color to what I will be painting on top. I do a thin wash of color, often times blending with my hands or fingers, to block in all areas of the canvas. I then start building more layers with a knife or brush." This technique results in an illusion, reminiscent of smoke and lights, which vaguely resembles a landscape while remaining open to interpretation.

Of all three artists, **Zak Barnes** seems to stray from his traditional landscape painting roots the most when creating his abstracts. In fact, he makes a conscious effort to create images that are "as organically shaped and unpredictable as possible...the more difficult to seemingly recreate the better." His use of heavy paint application and palette knife work with multiple unmixed hues offers both balance and spontaneity. According to Zak, "there are no two rules with painting my non-objective abstracts, which somehow makes them more difficult a lot of the time. If they were speaking a language it would be complete gibberish. I suppose if there were any rules that I do apply they would involve light and shadow with some sense of form."

The paintings will be on display at The Rice Gallery of Fine Art in Overland Park, Kansas through the end of May 2017. Artists will be available prior to the event for pre-show phone interviews upon request. For more information please contact Andrew Helt or Erin Hannan at 913.685.8889 or thericegallery@sbcglobal.net.

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