

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Jeffrey Beauchamp
How About Sub-Pastoral Expressionism
March 4 - 7, 2004

Why Sub-Pastoral Expressionism? Aside from the tongue-in-cheek pretension it could be a somewhat accurate label. Like "Sub-Saharan Africa" or "sub-zero temperatures" it suggests an expressionism that's slightly pretty but also edgy and not quite up to fully pastoral. Alternately, it may refer to what lies beneath scenes thought of as traditionally pastoral: imagine an exploded technical illustration of a Claude landscape. Either way, there is a freedom and freshness of vision here.

As an artist, Jeffrey attempts to postpone certain aspects of growing up in the name of staying creative: while painting, for instance, a disciplined daydreaming, takes the form of squinting into the painted distance, "magic eye" style, and exploring the possibilities of depth and visual adventure inside. Although painting epic skylscapes and terrain, Beauchamp attempts to re-cultivate his child-like spirit, and in doing so, he leaves the traditional landscape behind. Layers of suggestive brush and knife work emerge slowly from the stormy surfaces. It is this balance between the paint itself and deep illusionary space that is precarious in these paintings and make for a provocative and exciting exhibit. Beauchamp avoids any over-resolving and easily digested landscape cliches. The resulting paintings have a new vigor and charm that hold up under long scrutiny.

Born in Montclair, New Jersey, Jeffrey Beauchamp made his way to the Bay Area in the late 1980's, receiving his BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1989. He has been actively showing his work in Northern California and Portland, Oregon for the past fourteen years. This will be his first solo exhibition with Dolby Chadwick Gallery.