

## Chelsea James

Painting is a study of our existence, spirit, and environment, derived from experiences in life. I choose objects that evoke childhood memories, create situations of atmospheric mystery, and bring visual interest through interaction. I'm intrigued by subtle shifts in value and color; yet seek a personal interpretation of the objects rather than a replication. Personality is revealed through the process of painting. Abstract remnants from my process remain visible in the final product. The hand must obey the spirit.

### Education:

University of Utah, BFA in Painting and Drawing; 2000-2006  
 Helper Workshops, Helper Utah

### Shows and Exhibitions:

- 2010            de Saisset Museum (group show), Santa Clara, CA
- 2010            Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009            Finch Lane Gallery (two person show), Salt Lake City, UT
- Coda Gallery (two person show), Salt Lake City, UT
- 2008            Wing Selected Alumni Show, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2006            Williams Fine Art (two person show), Salt Lake City, UT
- Spring Show, Magpies Gallery (two person show), Salt Lake City, UT
- Final Show, Poor Yorrik, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2004            Upcoming Artists, Coda Gallery, Palm Desert, CA
- 2003            Student Show, Gittens Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT (also in 2002)
- Anniversary Show, Magpies Nest, Salt Lake City, UT (also in 2002)
- 2002            Intercollegiate Show, Gittens Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT
- Print Gumbo, Gittens Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT

### Honors and Awards:

- 2010            First Thursday Openings to Catch *7x7 Magazine*, June
- 2010            Selected in *Studio Visit Magazine*, May
- 2010            Spotlighted in *The Artist Magazine* "Sketchbooks", February
- 2006            Featured in *Salt Lake City Magazine* "Upcoming Artists", September
- Howard Clark Scholarship
- 2005            Featured in *Southwest Magazine* "Artists to Watch", February
- 2004            Selected in *Art Talk Magazine* "Artist Worth Watching"
- 2003            Helper Studio Group, Artist in Residence
- 2003            Helper Landscape Competition Award of Merit
- 2003            Special Merit Award in Helper Landscape Competition, July
- 2002-03        Christiansen Scholarship
- 2000            Nomination for Anne Beisse Outstanding Art Student of the Year Award

## Statement

Chelsea James

*Souvenirs of Solitude*

June 3 – June 26, 2010

Dolby Chadwick Gallery is pleased to announce *Souvenirs of Solitude*, an exhibition of new paintings by Chelsea James. Having only recently earned her BFA, the impressionistic quality of James' landscapes and interiors nevertheless reveals the measured stroke of a mature and confident artist. She skillfully endows her traditional subject matter—an atypical choice for such a young age—with a sensitivity and lyricism verging on the precocious. And though James' paintings derive from her experiences within the world, they are also intimately mediated through the artist's own temperament and interpretative sensibilities.

*[My paintings are] a reflection of who I am and what I've experienced. I choose objects that evoke childhood memories, create situations of atmospheric mystery, and bring visual interest through interaction. I'm intrigued by subtle shifts in value and color; yet seek a personal interpretation of the objects rather than a replication. – Chelsea James*

Inspired by van Gogh's drawings during a trip to Amsterdam, James' abstracted renderings of San Francisco, Utah and Africa, amongst other settings, evoke the palpable atmosphere and formal unity of the Dutchman's landscapes. This same awareness of atmosphere's affective power is evident in James' most recent series of interiors depicting lone industrial sinks and vast institutional hallways. Though bereft of actual human presence, half-empty bottles of soap, a folding chair, and pristinely polished floors give James' scenes the imprint of recent occupancy. Desolation is overcome by a sense of quiet solitude and calm, a mood reinforced by James' muted color palette and softly shifting tonalities.

Chelsea James earned a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Utah in 2006. During her undergraduate career, she was the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards and has since shown work at a several galleries and museums throughout Utah and California. *Southwest Magazine*, *Salt Lake City Magazine* and, most recently, *Design Sponge*, have praised her as a talented artist on the rise, one whose technical prowess and earnest imagination render her worthy of close attention. This will be James' first solo show at the Dolby Chadwick Gallery.