

Press Release

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Chris Reilly
Buddhamirror
March 13 – May 2, 2009

Opening Reception: Friday, March 13, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

(San Diego, California) - For Immediate Release

EXHIBITION SUMMARY:

Scott White Contemporary Art is pleased to present an exhibition of paintings and sculpture by San Diego based artist, Chris Reilly. The exhibition entitled *Buddhamirror* showcases three sculptures and ten paintings dating from 2008-2009. The exhibition will be on view beginning Friday, March 13 through Saturday, May 2.

The opening reception will take place in the gallery, located at 939 West Kalmia Street, San Diego, on Friday, March 13, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The artist will be attending the reception to engage with patrons and answer any questions. Light refreshments will be served.

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION:

The work of Chris Reilly speaks of transcendence, often drawing upon nature to depict a sense of universal spirituality. The encaustic wax utilized in Reilly's work is a perfect medium to convey the artist's ideas, materializing the various layers of being, from the physical to the metaphysical. In the paintings and sculptures showcased in the exhibition *Buddhamirror*, Reilly depicts the various aspects and layers of himself, personified in organic and animated characters. Be it a shell, a leaf, a dragonfly, a butterfly, a tree limb, or an image of the Buddha himself, Reilly paints these forms set against a luminous and atmospheric background, as a meditative practice to convey a larger dialogue with himself.

"In [this body of work] I depict aspects or parts of myself. I have personified these characters within me and named them to acquire knowledge of self. The Buddha is my screen on which I project the various "committee" members of my mind. Having identified these parts I may have a dialogue with them rather than suppressing or ignoring them and risking being steered unconsciously. They appreciate being listened to and provide abundant inspiration and energy."

In this new body of work, Reilly utilizes pigment prints and encaustic wax to build up the background images, which depict an atmosphere that is mirrored onto itself on either a central vertical or horizontal axis. Layered upon these abstract and mirrored images are the personified characters that Reilly speaks of. The result is a hauntingly luminous and mysteriously radiant image that is paramount to the artist's purpose – to transcend matter beyond the physical, into a higher spiritual plane.

ARTIST INFORMATION:

Acclaimed art critic, Robert Pincus of the San Diego Union Tribune once described Reilly's work as "intensely expressive without employing an easy expressionism. It draws upon realistic technique, with confidence and elegant results."

Chris Reilly received his B.F.A. from the School of Visual Arts in New York, and has been exhibiting in prominent galleries in New York, Seattle, San Diego, and Ketchum since the early 1990's. Based in San Diego, California, he is among the few contemporary artists who have mastered the encaustic medium, which is notoriously known for its difficulty of use. Encaustic is a mixture of wax and pigment, which dries very quickly and requires an expedience of the hand and mind. Utilizing the translucency of this medium, Reilly creates luminous work with organic subject matter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST VISUAL MATERIALS, PLEASE
CONTACT KATHLEEN CRAIN AT 619-501-5689, or email kathleen@scottwhiteart.com

GALLERY INFORMATION:**SCOTT WHITE CONTEMPORARY ART**

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Hours:

Mon – Fri, 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Sat, 11:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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