

VISUAL ARTS

Mixed MEDIA

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IN SAN DIEGO



Recent works by Chris Reilly

Through May 8, Scott White Contemporary Art, 939 W. Kalmia St., Little Italy. Free. (619) 501-5689 or scottwhiteart.com

You know he's not a living and breathing version of a Buddha. But Christopher Reilly's sculpture of him, "Peacemaker (Family of Origin)," mostly white and with eyes shut, seems as if he could come to life at any moment. There he sits, atop a pedestal of driftwood. It's hard to tell if this boy Buddha is simply serene, slightly haughty, or both.

Reilly exhibited this sculpture and related ones in his 2009 exhibition, "Buddhamirror," at the gallery. No matter what form in which he works — mixed-media sculpture, painting in encaustics (melted wax) or a mix of painting and photography — his technical virtuosity is dazzling. The work has emotional depth, too, both psychological and spiritual. But "Peacemaker" is no straightforward homage to Buddhism. He calls each of his Buddha sculptures a screen on which he projects aspects of himself. If you missed Reilly's recent show, then here's another chance to see his work — to make up your own mind about the mood of the boy Buddha and to view one of his pleasing, lushly colored hallucinatory landscapes, "Pond Moth."

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