

INMAN GALLERY

For immediate release:

Inman Gallery is pleased to present two exhibitions:

Kristin Musgnug **New Paintings**

and

Shaun O'Dell **Road Ghosts Coming;** **Landscapes of Blood:** **From "SKULL PILE TO THE SUN"**

Opening Friday, January 12
6 – 8:30 pm
Artist talks begin at 6:00pm



Kristin Musgnug, Hambidge Creek, 2006 oil on canvas,
42 x 72 inches

The exhibitions continue through February 24.

Inman Gallery is pleased to start the new year with presentations of new work by **Kristin Musgnug** and **Shaun O'Dell**. The exhibitions run from January 12 – February 24, 2007. The opening reception will take place on January 12, 6-8:30 pm with an artists' talk beginning at 6:00pm.

For the past 18 years, Kristin Musgnug has been exploring and painting the natural landscape; from remote coastlines to nearby roadsides, she has documented the energy and mood of the land around her. Musgnug has mused over the mythologies that describe Americans' relationship to nature – either it is pure and completely “natural” (the myth of the “virgin” terrain), or deflowered, good only for resource extraction and capital gain. She has specifically chosen to recognize the “in-between” places, where there is evidence of human activity or intervention. Her works invite us to see uncommon beauty in common places, and to acknowledge the animistic energy of the landscape.

“Some of these paintings are about losing myself in the experience of being outdoors – the way a place can represent certain states of mind, create sensations of physical empathy, or mesmerize with complex beauty.

In other paintings, the vestiges of human presence refer to commonplace interactions with nature: a car, a road, a cut branch, the results of herbicide. In this I tend to feel more of a kinship with contemporary landscape photographers rather than with painters. I find in these photographers a common interest in looking for something that is strange but real.”

Kristin Musgnug, artist statement

In addition to the series of canvasses, the exhibition includes a number of works on paper, studies completed in one sitting onsite. While offering an insight into the artists' process, they exist as beautiful, expressionistic paintings with kinship to the work of early 20th century plein-air American painters.

Kristin Musgnug was born in Buffalo, NY in 1959 received a BA in Art History from Williams College in 1981 and an MFA from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana in 1988. She moved to Houston shortly thereafter to participate in the Core Artist-in-Residence program at the Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Her paintings have been included in exhibitions throughout the region. She now lives and works in Fayetteville, Arkansas where she is a professor of Fine Arts at the University of Arkansas.



Shaun O'Dell "Song of 60 Million Buffalo Ghosts", 2006 gouache and ink on paper, 29 x 69 inches

Shaun O'Dell, born in 1968 in Beeville Texas, grew up in rural California, the son of a disaffected 60's radical and a landscape photographer. After 10 years of immersion in the study and performance of jazz saxophone, O'Dell began to focus increasingly on his drawing practice, exhibiting in the SF Bay area and Los Angeles beginning in 2001 to the present. His work includes drawings, video and installation. The current exhibition at Inman Gallery showcases a tight-knit group of large-scale drawings which extend O'Dell's recent exploration into the history of the mythologies that America has created around our relationship to nature. His research has taken him from the beginnings of our nation, wherein the Puritan ethic branded nature as "base" and un-Godlike, through the irony of mid-20th century America situating a nuclear research facility (Los Alamos Laboratory) on the edge of a dormant volcano.

Integrating meticulously rendered archetypal elements from both natural and cultural imagery, O'Dell constructs obsessively complex drawings whose loose compositions include text taken from American literature and his own writing. Often comprising multiple sheets of paper, the drawings appear to have grown organically, with the artist actively responding to the growing composition.

"I am creating an apparatus to extract information from the collective American psyche that uses literature and historical events to achieve a more historically truthful representation of our engagement with nature".
Shaun O'Dell

O'Dell received an MFA in 2004 from Stanford University. His work is included in the permanent collections of **San Fransisco Museum of Modern Art**, **UC Berkeley Museum** and other California public institutions. In 2006, he was the recipient of an Artadia Grant for artists in the San Fransisco Bay Area, as well as a Diebenkorn teaching fellowship from SF Art Institute. He has had solo exhibitions at Jack Hanley Gallery, San Francisco, Jim Harris Gallery, Seattle, and New Image Art, Los Angeles. O'Dell's work will be included in the upcoming exhibition "Euphorion" at Pierogi Leipzig and was included in the group exhibition "Little Odysseys" at Marianne Boesky Gallery in summer 2005.

Currently on view at the **CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art** are two concurrent, related exhibitions that include O'Dell's work. The first is a solo project for Wattis Institute's **Bulletin Board** space entitled "Getting Right With The Sun". The exhibition is a proposal, documented with drawings and and a solar powered video/sculpture, to offset 20% of the energy consumption at CCA using a 63kW photovoltaic solar system. O'Dell's work is also included in the group exhibition entitled "How to Build a Universe That Doesn't Fall Apart Two Days Later", curated by Will Bradley.

For more information contact Inman Gallery at info@inmangallery.com or call 713.526.7800.