



S a r a h W i l l i a m s

Springfield, MO

Artist's Statement

It is my belief that art should originate through a painter's personal experiences in her home environment. I see my whole life as preparation for the way I paint and the work I am currently making. This body of work is closely focused on my roots in the rural American Midwest. Being raised in a small town and then moving to an urban setting has made me aware of the seemingly mundane, anonymous scenes existing on the periphery that tend to be ignored. Recently I have become conscious that I am compelled to paint what I know best which is the environment from which I come. My perception of a specific sense of place guides me while these local settings offer abundant material.

Strong emotions can be prompted by a place. Over time, ways of life shape and define the people and the spaces in which they live. I am drawn to areas and structures that show character acquired from the history and memory of the people that formed that environment. Aesthetically I am interested in light sources and the play of light on surfaces. This led me to paint nightscapes of familiar yet isolated and unremarkable buildings, rooms and scenes located in rural areas close to my home. I use darkness to edit out extraneous information and provide the viewer with the essence of the place. Portraying these settings as nightscapes allows me to convey the emotional tone of the painting. The viewer's location is not specifically implied because of the light source within the paintings. They must find their own way and decide their own approach when out in the rural night depicted in these works.

While I render my subject in a representational manner I like to fracture the form and accentuate the light through brushwork. I believe this approach makes these settings visually captivating and eerily mysterious at the same time. The viewer starts to unravel the mood of the painting not only with the primary area of focus, but through the combination of the secondary and even tertiary areas of focus. A viewer's eyes must adjust so they will be able to see these subtle nuances that complete the character of the place. The artistic language applied to slightly familiar yet hauntingly isolated areas permits me to transform the common place and make the insignificant significant.

Even though my connection to the small town farm culture that shaped me as I grew up played a major role in how I approach these works, I believe they can speak to people from a variety of places and experiences. Each viewer brings their own vantage point to the works. It could be that they are from similar environments and feel comforted by the imagery, or maybe it reminds them of cross country road trips. For some these desolate nightscapes may represent somewhere they hope to never find themselves alone. Whatever the case may be, it prompts viewers to draw upon the character and identity of their regional home when approaching these works.

I like the idea of bringing paintings of small town life to the contemporary art scene in urban settings. I hope my work allows people to think about where they come from and take pride in the collective identity of their home region. The ideologies and emotions I have developed around my life in the Midwest will continue to guide me on my artistic journey.

Blue Gallery

118 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108

816.527.0823 voice 816.527.0826 fax BlueGalleryOnline.com website

Sarah Williams

Springfield, MO

Education

2006-2009, University of North Texas
MFA in Painting and Drawing, Denton, TX

2002-2006, William Woods University
BFA in Studio Art, Summa Cum Laude, Fulton, MO

Solo Exhibitions

2013	Remote America	Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, TX
2012	County Line	McMurtrey Gallery; Micro Space, Houston, TX
2012	Nightfall	Marty Walker Gallery, Dallas, TX
2011	Outside the County Seat	Galveston Arts Center, Galveston, TX
2011	On the Periphery	McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
2010	Outskirts	Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph, MO
	Population 4,769	McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
2009	Night Vision	Marty Walker Gallery, Dallas, TX
	The Places In Between	500X Gallery, Dallas, TX
	Pinned	University of North Texas Union Gallery, Denton, TX

Selected Group Exhibitions

2012	Houston Art Fair	McMurtrey Gallery/Houston Art Fair, Houston, TX
	The Cityscape Show II	George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
	Natural Constructed Spaces	The Painting Center, New York, NY
	Big and Bright: New Work from Texas	curator: Marianne Van Lent, Galen Cheney Southwestern College Art Gallery at Southwestern College Chula Vista, CA
2011	Annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition	Brookhaven College Gallery, Dallas, TX
	Hunting Art Prize Finalist Exhibition	Friedkin Corporate Gulf of Toyota Exhibition Hall, Houston, TX
	Now. Here. This.	3-Art, Curated online exhibition; Curator: Sara Jones
	Winter Exhibition	PS Gallery, Columbia, MO
2010	500X Past and Present Member's Drawing Show	500X Gallery, Dallas, TX
	Annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition	University of North Texas Art Gallery, Denton, TX
	Annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition	Brookhaven College Gallery, Dallas, TX
	Hunting Art Prize Finalist Exhibition	Friedkin Corporate Gulf of Toyota Exhibition Hall, Houston, TX
	Biennial Texas/Oklahoma Art Show	Wichita Falls Museum of Art, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX; Curator: Janis Goodman
	HWH	500X Gallery, Dallas, TX
2009	Back in Red, Group Holiday Exhibition	McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
	Annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition	University of North Texas Art Gallery, Denton, TX
	Graduate Student "Launch Exhibition"	Contemporary Art Dealers of Dallas Art Lab, Dallas, TX Curator: Ann Lawrence
	Front Room=Back Room	Marty Walker Gallery, Dallas, TX
	2009 Annual Voertman's Art Competition	University of North Texas Art Gallery, Denton, TX Curator: John Pomara
	Observation/Insight: Drawing from the Elm Fork Natural Heritage Museum	Eagle Exhibition Hall/ Elm Fork Education Center University of North Texas, Denton, TX
2008	P.A.N.T.S Open	Cora Stafford Gallery, University of North Texas, Denton, TX
	ArtHouston 2008: Two From UNT	McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
	Current Works by Sarah Williams and Julon Pinkston	McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
	Summer Exhibition	PS Gallery, Columbia, MO
	University of North Texas Graduate Exhibition	University of North Texas Art Gallery, Denton, TX Curators: Tracee Robertson and Victoria Extrada-Berg
	H2OMG	Fort Worth Community Arts Center, Fort Worth, TX
	Visual Arts Society of Texas 40th Annual Spring Exhibition	Visual Arts Society, Denton, TX; Curator: Nic Nicosia
	Annual Voertman's Student Art Competition	University of North Texas Art Gallery, Denton, TX Curator: Charles Wylie
	Annual College Art Association Regional MFA Exhibition	Cora Stafford Gallery, University of North Texas, Denton, TX
	32nd Annual University Union's Student Art Competition	University of North Texas Union Gallery, Denton, TX Curator: Thomas Feulmer

Sarah Williams

Springfield, MO

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| 2007 | Not To Be Missed By Anyone
Pocket of Schemes
Peripheral Vision
Ghost Town Arts Collective
Visual Arts Society of Texas 2nd Annual
125 Mile Exhibition
Paint Trap | 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX
Cora Stafford Gallery, University of North Texas, Denton, TX
University of North Texas Union Gallery, Denton, TX
Austin College Ida Green Gallery, Sherman, TX
Visual Arts Society, Denton, TX; Curator: Katherine Liontas-Warren

Cora Stafford Gallery, University of North Texas, Denton, TX |
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Gallery Representation

Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
Marty Walker Gallery, Dallas, TX

Awards

2011, Hunting Art Prize Finalist, Houston, TX
2010, Vermont Studio Center Summer Residency, Johnson, VT
2010, Vermont Studio Center Artists' Grant, Johnson, VT
2010, Hunting Art Prize Finalist, Houston, TX
2009, University of North Texas Art in Public Places Purchase Award, Denton, TX
2009, Outstanding Graduate in Studio Art Award; University of North Texas, Denton, TX
2008, First Place Award, P.A.N.T.S. Open Exhibition; Curator: Matthew Sontheimer, Denton, TX
2007, Category I Award, Visual Arts Society of Texas 2nd Annual 125 Mile Exhibition, Denton, TX
2005, Craftsmanship and Design Award; William Woods University, Fulton, MO
2004, Muriel Braeutigam Memorial Prize; St. Louis Artists' Guild, St. Louis, MO

Curatorial Experience

2012 Watercolor Topics Course: Hyper-Realism, Lightwell Gallery, University of North Texas, Denton, TX
2009, Observational/Insight: Drawing from the Elm Fork Natural Heritage Museum, Eagle Exhibition Hall/Elm Fork Center, Denton, TX
2008, University of North Texas Drawing Core Student Exhibition, University of North Texas, Denton, TX
2008, Immaculate Conception Catholic School Drawing Event, Denton, TX
2007, Not To Be Missed By Anyone, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX

Activities

2010 Panelist member for the Here. There & Beyond Exhibition, Dallas Contemporary Gallery, Dallas, TX
2010 Gallery Talk; Houston's Looking At Art Group, McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
2009-2010 Member of 500X Gallery Artist Co-op, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX
2009-2010 Treasurer for 500X Gallery Artist Co-op, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX
2009 University of North Texas chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Denton, TX
2008-2009 University of North Texas Visual Arts and Design; Design Search Committee Member, Denton, TX
2008 Co-Author of "The Elm Fork Natural Heritage Museum and Introductory Drawing Students: a Cross-Disciplinary Learning Experience"
UNT, Denton, TX

Publications

2011 New American Paintings; No. 96, Western Issue
2010 Houston Chronicle; p E8, Thursday February 11, 2010
2009 Dallas Modern Luxury Magazine; p 56, December 2009 issue
2008 Houston Chronicle; p E2, Friday August 15, 2008
2008 CAA News; volume 33, number 1, January 2008,
2007 Fishwrap; volume 4, number 2, summer 2007, Institute for Small Town Studies; Fairfield, IA

University Teaching Experience

2012-current, Assistant Professor, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
2009-2012, Adjunct Faculty, University of North Texas, Denton, TX
2010-current, Adjunct Faculty, Brookhaven College, Dallas, TX
2009, Adjunct Faculty, Richland College, Dallas, TX
2007-2009, Teaching Assistant, University of North Texas, Denton, TX

Work Experience

2007-2009, University of North Texas Drawing Core Area Assistant University of North Texas, Denton, TX
Summer 2008, Studio Assistant, Arrowmont School of Art and Craft, Gatlinburg, TN



