

Hudson Gallery to feature works by Randall Schmit

David Dew Bruner Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Randall Schmit, titled "Simultaneous Visitations on the Periphery of Opposing Foyers." This solo exhibition not only features a selection of the artist's new series of canvas paintings but also a number of ballpoint pen and acrylic works on paper. The exhibit will remain on view through Sunday, June 27.

Over the past few years Randall Schmit's paintings have developed deeper spaces behind prominent and amorphous scrim, with drawings that invoke interior, landscape, cityscape as well as purely abstract spaces. The artist's narrative content has expanded with his gradual introduction of multiple figures separately placed within various areas and compartments, all connected by amorphous "Portals" comprised of figures, and each placed to independently represent psychological distances that separate people; a dialogue between the figures is implied. Overlaid with large, gestural brushstrokes, the scale juxtaposition creates a shift in point-of-view, leaving an ambiguous idea of which figures reside in the foreground and which in the background. These new works express a shifting and disorienting world, mirroring a noir edge of reality.

Schmit's long-term and obsessive study of Coleridge's journals have informed his aesthetic which combines pattern, psychological content and tableaux painted in historical styles. Investigations of situational space, these new figurative abstractions also feature a painted gestural top layer. Mosaics encountered during a visit to Istanbul were a catalyst to the artist's



Photo courtesy of artist
Randall Schmit, "Simultaneous Visitation on the Periphery of Opposing Foyers"

changed approach with regard to his perennial collage paintings. The same formal elements are employed in a similar structure, creating a yin-yang vibration between the spaces. His organization of imagery has also followed this eclectic path, and is informed by the Renaissance way of joining secular and mythical images within ambiguous spaces and/or telling several stories within one panel.

Randall Schmit's new figurative abstract paintings and works on paper represent the alchemy of renewed energy, while their emphasis on gesture carries the charisma of and harkens the artist's early years in the shadow of the New York School of Abstract Expressionists.

Randall Schmit was born in Newark, N.J. and grew up in San Pedro, Calif., and Baton Rouge, La. He was first apprentice, then assistant to New York abstract colorist, Ray Parker during the late 70s in New York, where he lived and worked for 20 years. Since 2005, Schmit has lived and worked upstate in Valatie.

David Dew Bruner Gallery, located at 610 Warren St. in Hudson, is open Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., and by appointment.

For more information, call 914.466.4857 or e-mail daviddewbruner@msn.com