

3721 Washington Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

NEWS RELEASE

August 17, 2010

KELLEY JOHNSON

September 10 – November 6, 2010
Opening Reception:
Friday, September 10, from 6 to 9 pm

Front Room: Gary Passanise
Project Room: Iris Neshier
Media Room: Barry Anderson

Media contact: Bruno L. David, Director
info@brunodavidgallery.com
www.brunodavidgallery.com

Public Hours:
Wednesday through
Saturday
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
TEL: 314.531.3030



BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS NEW PAINTINGS BY KELLEY JOHNSON

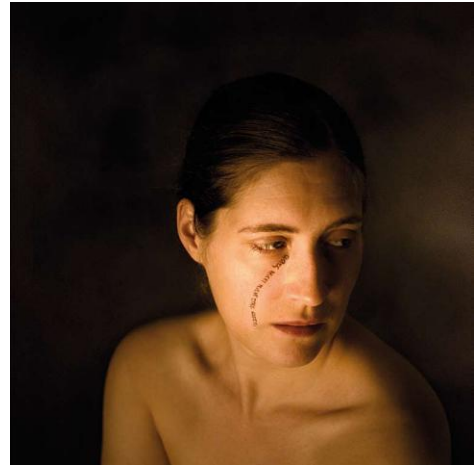
SAINT LOUIS, MO — Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition by **Kelley Johnson**. The exhibition “**Recent Paintings**” includes paintings of complex abstract landscapes. A fully illustrated color catalogue with writings by **James Yood** and **Vara Lyons** accompany the exhibition.

A native of St. Louis originally trained in the figurative tradition; Johnson’s recent paintings move beyond the classical skills he obtained as an art student in Paris. Completely removed from an earthly environment, the artist’s works present vibrantly, at times disturbingly, chaotic other worlds of raw energy and emotion. Yet underneath the jarring tones and clashing lines, his works retain a discipline, depth and meticulously impromptu nature characteristic of figurative conventions. Inspired by the manipulation of space and emotions, Johnson’s canvases present an overall effect of disorder so effectively controlled and manipulated that its thoughtful planning becomes invisible in the process.

At their core, Johnson’s current paintings stem from recent personal struggles and inner conflicts. Physically intimidating and engulfing due to their sheer size, this particular set of canvases creates a conflict in its viewers as they observe their own discomfort with the uncertainty of ambiguous spaces and planes that continuously subvert and interrupt created volumes. Indeed, we are left with the sense that we have been transported into Johnson’s inner psyche and unsure of how to resolve the struggle—which, of course, is precisely what the artist intended.

Johnson received his B.F.A. from Parsons School of Design, New York and his M.F.A. from the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts at Indiana University. This is his second one-person exhibition with the Bruno David Gallery.

In the **Project Room**, Italian-born, Israel-based artist **Iris Neshet** presents "In the Dark Rooms," a series of photographs that investigates the very essence of female creativity. Neshet produces provocative, hauntingly beautiful photographs of a selection of female writers, poets, and playwrights of various cultural and religious backgrounds. The powerful insight into the subject's psyche provided by Neshet's skilled lens is bolstered by the inclusion of a passage written or chosen by the subject herself. While some choose to display the words in the setting around them, others have literally written their thoughts on their bodies, as a testament to the power of language to convey the innermost corners of the mind, in all of its richness and complexity. By defying convention, these women have marked themselves and their environments, taking back the power of the language and using it to express themselves, rather than allowing others to speak for them.



A fully illustrated color catalogue with writings by **Laura Beckman**, **Yigal Schwartz** and **Meir Aharonson** accompany the exhibition.

Neshet attended the School of Visual Arts in New York and later on California Art Institute of Los Angeles. Her work has been featured in exhibits in both the United States and Europe. This past year, her work was the subject of a one-person exhibition at Moscow's Museum of Contemporary Art and will travel in 2011 to the Jewish Museum of London, England.

In the **Front Room**, the gallery presents "The Sky Is No Longer The Limit -- Constructions and Proposals" by **Gary Passanise**. These small, mixed-media constructions contain ideas in miniature, revealing unsettling, unstable environments within. Grappling with the evolution of the American dream and the uncertainty of contemporary times, we are compelled to explore new possibilities and re-consider the path of our history.



Prints and drawings illustrate proposals for site-specific installations offering a window into his always evolving creative process. Paradox and absurdity abound inviting viewers into metaphorical relationships and unexpected realities. Passanise's recent work blurs the boundaries between what exists and what can be imagined without the restrictions of material limitations.

Passanise received his B.F.A. from Webster University Saint Louis, and his M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He has exhibited his work nationally and internationally and has been the recipient of numerous awards and endowments. Passanise is currently the Director of Painting at Webster University's Leigh Gerding College of Art.



In the **Media Room**, video artist **Barry Anderson** presents a three-channel video entitled "Totem (1)." This new work, created in 2010, depicts, at a distance, a turbulent tornado against a yellow ochre sky, overtaking a Midwestern landscape reminiscent of Dorothy's Kansas. Upon closer inspection, a mass of swirling faces overwhelmed by this natural force becomes visible. These faces, a conglomeration of pop icons, speak to Anderson's recent interest in cultural imagery from 1950s to 1970s Americana. Rather than highlighting the era's empty consumerism, as many artists have before him, Anderson emphasizes the homogeneity of the era, contrasting it with the taste for individualism in modern American culture.

Anderson's interest in video stems from his early work with photography. He avoids succumbing to the viewer's expectations for a narrative storyline, instead working with looping scenes, audio, and images in what he prefers to call "moving images." Originally from Texas, Anderson lives and works in Kansas City, Missouri. He received his B.F.A. from the University of Texas, Austin and his M.F.A. from the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts at Indiana University.

Images above:

Kelley Johnson: *Untitled*, 2010, Oil on canvas, 74 x 60 inches

Iris Neshet: *Nano Shabtai - Sexual Intercourse is Not Intrinsicly Banal*, 2009, C-print, Edition 1 of 6, 36 x 36 inches

Gary Passanise: *Photo Document 9*, 2010, Archival digital print, 12 x 18 inches

Barry Anderson: *Totem (1)*, 2010, Video still.

ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Bruno David Gallery, is St. Louis' leading art gallery specializing in contemporary art and one of the most important places to see art in Saint Louis. The Gallery represents some of the best artists that Saint Louis has to offer, along with artists of national and international reputation. Located in a stunningly renovated industrial building in the Grand Center arts district, directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Bruno David Gallery's art program has introduced new contemporary art to local gallery goers, and has been discussed in important art publications including, Art in America, Art Papers, ArtNet Magazine.

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