

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 5, 2017

## **FOUND IN TRANSLATION**

*Still Life, portrait and landscape paintings by Sarah Picon*

*Abstract Paintings by Chase Langford from the Morphic & Del Mar series*

April 20-June 1, 2017

**OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, April 20, 6-8 PM**

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 11am-5pm

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We are pleased to announce the opening of "Found In Translation," a two-person exhibition featuring new paintings by Franco-British artist Sarah Picon, and paintings by Los Angeles based artist Chase Langford.

### **SARAH PICON**

This will be the second showing of Sarah Picon's paintings at SEFA, following the success of her debut exhibition in the US, "Across the Pond," in 2012. Picon is represented by Galerie G'M, located in Veynes in the south of France. We are delighted to collaborate again with Martine Garcin, director of Galerie G'M, to bring Picon's new work to the US.

The grouping of more than a dozen paintings include small works in acrylic of fruit or flowers resting on tables, portraits of women in profile or in contemplation and seated at a table. Picon refers to her artistic practice as a dual search for revealing abstract shapes in form, color and texture, along with recognizable objects – a chair or a bowl of fruit. When she begins a painting she will allow images seen, photographed or previously drawn to flood her senses. Through a subconscious process of elimination of imagery, rather than a building up, and using both painting and drawing techniques, the essence of a painting reveals itself.

In her still lifes Picon refers to Cezanne, with bowls of fruit precariously sitting on tilted tables, and early Picasso with the softly fragmented figures and skewed, expressive facial features. The backgrounds are created with broad washes of color marked by intersecting plains, indicating a room, walls, perhaps a colorful wallpaper. With each painting, Picon invites us into a luscious interior, at once contemporary and nostalgic, and beckons us to join the woman at the table reading, sipping tea or gazing out of the window at a hilly landscape beyond.

### **CHASE LANGFORD**

Chase Langford has been featured in two group exhibitions at SEFA: "Making Their Mark," (2011), guest curated by SEFA artist Amber George, and "Elements of Domesticity" (2014); and one solo exhibition, "Geo + Morphic" (2014). Langford has also participated with SEFA at six art fairs in Miami, New York, Silicon Valley and Toronto. We are pleased to present a highly selective grouping of Langford's paintings in this second solo exhibition. At the start of each painting Langford begins with a real place, one he has visited. To create each composition, the artist taps into his visual and spatial memory of the specific geography – in the case of this show, the Amalfi Coast in Italy, Breckenridge, CO, Cozumel, Mexico, Lewis Bay, MA and Del Mar, CA.

Langford subsequently builds up layers of color from a canvas initially painted black, and then scrapes, rubs and repaints. Subtle hues of color reveal themselves from layers unearthed, recalling riverbeds, rock strata or canyons, and the physicality of the natural world.

As we look at Langford's paintings, a funny thing happens to the mind. We recall birds eye views of landscapes glimpsed from airplanes. But seen from a different vantage point, we could be looking into a cross section of a magnificent rock or gemstone.

## **SARAH PICON**

### **ARTIST BIO**

Sarah Picon was born in England. Her parents, both practicing artists, were Franco-British. She studied at the Harrow School of Art and the London School of Printing, later moving to France where she has spent most of her adult life. Picon draws her subjects from her surroundings and their emotional impact on her. She pays considerable attention to seemingly unimportant things, ranging from a forgotten corner of a house to a fleeting image of a face or gesture, to the light cast on a bowl of fruit or the colour of the sky. All these and more can be pretexts for inventive painting. Picon has exhibited throughout the south of France, on the Riviera and Aix-en-Provence, Marseille and in St Germain en Laye, and in Paris. Picon has one studio overlooking the River Seine near Paris, and another in the hills of the Drôme Provençale.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

When embarking on a painting – embarking is the right word, as it is a voyage of discovery – as the work progresses so many ideas crowd in to be incorporated and the difficulty lies in making choices to determine that which should be accentuated. However, as I say this I am aware that behind the choice of these images as a base for a picture, there is another, imperious, unexplained arrangement of colors, composition and impressions, far more mysterious and abstract, which I want to convey. The actual process of painting mirrors the original apparent opposition between abstract form and the representational image in that I work going to and fro between creating a realistic, nameable shape using and obeying the abstract form. My alternate use of drawing and painting throughout the making of a painting further accentuates this need for a dual search. I suppose I am trying to convey the essence held within an image, but of this, I can honestly say I am not aware while working. Nature in its widest sense always holds the last word, and as artists we can only reach a little part of it, for which we can be eternally grateful. Each painting, as it is cannot say everything, but leads to another and so on – never ending.

## **CHASE LANGFORD**

### **ARTIST BIO**

Chase Langford, born in Pontiac, MI, is a Los Angeles-based artist well known for his geographically inspired paintings. He studied cartography earning a BA from UC Santa Barbara in Geography before working as a cartographer at UCLA. Starting with his Map Paintings he reinterpreted geography by taking selected features from maps and filled in the reconfigured shapes in a flurry of color and movement, creating a fresh take on familiar geographic forms. This followed with series that moved even deeper into pure abstraction with his Coldwater, Mulholland, and Scrape series, which all led to his Morphic series, the core focus of his painting today. Langford's paintings are in numerous private, corporate and institutional collections, as well as in the permanent collection of the Long Beach Museum of Art, Los Angeles.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

At a very young age I started studying and drawing maps. By my teens I had a map and atlas collection totaling well over 1,000 and spent my free time engaged in cartography. Imagine the effect of spending decades intimately tracing coasts, rivers, highways and more. Inevitably the visual rhythms of geography seeped into my DNA. The interplay of a lifetime of maps and my fine art painting became most apparent in the late 1980's when I started to create map paintings. My core inspiration continues to be geography, but the result (what is "found") draws on my body of work as a painter. Each painting is part of an ongoing visual conversation with its own language and idiosyncratic sensibility. Today my paintings still echo their geographic foundation, whether they are translations of surreal ocean sunsets in Del Mar or the Amalfi Coast's lofty cliffs.