

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Architectural Musings
Recent Paintings by David Collins & James Isherwood
March 7-April 15, 2012
Opening Reception: Wednesday, March 7th, 6-8 pm

Susan Eley Fine Art is pleased to present *Architectural Musings: Recent Paintings by David Collins & James Isherwood*, a two-person exhibition featuring 8-10 paintings by each artist. Architecture and structure act as muse for both painters. Their recent work—an interplay of indoors and outdoors—teem with layered patterns, vibrant color and fragmented forms.

DAVID COLLINS

Born in Iowa and raised in Texas, David Collins was influenced by his family's history in Cold War era technology. His father was an electrical engineer who filled the home with drafting tools, navigational maps and architectural supplies. Collin's recent paintings reveal the influence of these childhood items in the floating and stacked planes, razor straight lines, spheres and conical shapes, suspended against grounds of aquamarine, green and blue.

The paintings evoke buildings, airports and construction sites with fragmented planes and intersecting floor and ceiling walls. One is unsure if one is peering inside or outside a structure in Collins' synthetic spaces. The ambiguity is intentional. The artist is playing with his own uncertain memories of places he has visited, either in reality or in dreams, and is testing us to do the same.

Evidence of nautical design is apparent in "Skiff," comprised of sleek hull forms, rendered in metallic paint and floating on a blueprint of sorts. In "The Tops," the blade or propeller like forms in gorgeous hues of blue, green, yellow and pink, whirl and spin reminiscent of aviation design, rotation and trajectories. The artist juxtaposes these mechanical components with personal mementos of vintage wallpaper and hand-made Japanese papers collaged into the composition.

This is Collins first solo show with SEFA, after participating in the Gallery's group show *Summer Selects (2011)*. Collins has exhibited nationally and internationally with Kenise Barnes in Larchmont, NY; Heidi Cho Gallery, NYC; Jeffery Coploff Gallery NYC; Valley House Gallery, Dallas TX; Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta GA; The National Academy, NYC; Dorsky Curatorial Program, Queens NYC; The Jacksonville Museum of Contemporary Art; and the Sanbao Ceramic Art Museum, Sanbao China. Awards include a Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop fellowship and two Yaddo residencies. Collins, has a BFA from RISD (1988), and lives and works in NYC.

JAMES ISHERWOOD

James Isherwood was born in Fall River, Massachusetts and lives and works in New York City. The artist continues his exploration of architecture as the foundation for composition in his new series. Isherwood begins with the concept of a house, sourcing imagery from luxury real estate listings. He is drawn to these advertisements because they deliver ready-made pictures of well-appointed residences with impeccable landscaping.

On a first viewing of Isherwood's work, we recognize the walls and other architectural components. A closer inspection, however, reveals that these enigmatic houses lack structural elements that would make them inhabitable—doors and windows—and are entirely devoid of people. There is light, sometimes emanating from within, as if a TV has been left on, or sometimes glowing from outside. The magic is in the illusion of a human presence, felt in the mysterious light, strange shadows and intersecting walls. Isherwood can apply up to one hundred layers of paint in one painting. The layers are sanded, painted again, and often pressed with objects with interesting markings, such as paper towel sheets or wood graining tools, to achieve the rich patterns and textures that are characteristic of his paintings.

In "Sleeper," the largest painting in the new series, one wall shows a panoramic view of mountains. The mystery is at once unsettling and exciting. Are we looking through the house towards a real landscape? Or is the view an illustration from inside the house? An impossibly tall tree has fallen across the lawn in the front yard and the leaves creep up the side of the house in an intricate, lacy pattern—Magritte fashion.

Architectural Musings is Isherwood's second solo show with SEFA, following *Regarding Arcadia* in 2008. He has also participated in several group shows, most recently in *Summer Selects* (2011). Isherwood has exhibited in New York at 722 Projects Space, Brooklyn Fireproof Gallery; the Killebacksgarten Gallery in Sweden; and at NYU's Small Works Show, among others. Isherwood has a BFA from Parson's School of Design (1993).



David Collins, "Skiff"



James Isherwood, "Sleeper"