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Paul Middendorf

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This Friday Inman Gallery will be presenting the first solo show of Charis Ammon. The artist has had several shows in Texas to date and every one of them progressive and better than the last. Ammon is a painter in every sense of the word and contains a passion for her medium leaving no detail unchallenged. The exhibition *Still Hot in the Shade* is a new break out of the talented young painter. The new paintings from Ammon highlight the tiny moments of a working city cracking under its own pressure. Based deeply on her daily walk through Houston neighborhoods, the undertones of streets, sidewalks, and construction site core samples are revealed with precision.

Working as closely with the surface of the canvas as she does with the gritty and grimy contents of the streets. The small works on canvas show testament to Ammon's skill with the brush and abilities as a painter.

Still Hot in the Shade is more than landscape and representational paintings. Charis's ability to transform her subject matter and concepts is a spectacle to be seen firsthand. The material and application holds as much importance as the narrative she is suggesting within her pieces.

Working intimately throughout the paintings, Ammon operates with space and composition the way mathematician works with equations. Every movement is calculated and justified by its own convictions. The color choices and the very placement of them, serve a valid purpose and brings the viewers to deconstruct the process over the shopping cart or overpass represented.

In previous works of the artist it wasn't paintings of an object of detail being presented, it was the actual object being recreated. Ammon, painstakingly recreated the actual object of the actual size. A triple light switch panel hung on the wall of the gallery in trompe l'oeil fashion. Of perfect scale and application the, 3D paintings captured shadows, lighting, and details such as an off tilt screw head, were replicated.

Ammon's new works are beyond studies, as size might suggest at first visitation. The small painting of broken car window glass laying upon busted concrete is lush and visually sparkles as if catching the light of the sun. Brush work throughout Charis's paintings large or small receive the same amount of attention. Much like the work of Lucian Freud, the texture on the canvas and the movement of the paint is key. An overpass dances with subtle color play and channels visions from the Bay Area Painters of the 50s and 60s. Hard edge color choices take over the small work and a wink and a nod to Richard Diebenkorn.

There is much to see within the small minds eye of these paintings and more to be discovered. Kerry Inman of Inman Gallery has always championed new talents and elevating artists. The new solo show of Charis Ammon is case in point and an exciting move for the gallery and Ammon. *Still Hot in the Shade* opens this Friday July 13th making this superstitious date a lucky Charm.

Still Hot in the Shade opens at Inman Gallery (3901 Main Street) July 13, 6-8pm
Charis Ammon artist talk Saturday July 14, 1pm