

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 2, 2016

Inman Gallery presents

**David Aylsworth**  
***Sweet sweet sweet sweet sweet tea***

Artist's reception  
**Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm**

Exhibition continues through  
Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

*Gallery hours Tues-Sat, 11-6pm*  
*Or by appointment*



David Aylsworth, *Big Cocoon*, 2015  
oil on canvas, 20 x 22 inches

Inman Gallery is pleased to present ***Sweet sweet sweet sweet sweet tea***, an exhibition of new work by **David Aylsworth**. This will be Aylsworth's eighth solo show with Inman since 1992. The exhibition will open **Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**, with a reception from 6:00 to 8:00pm, and will continue through February 20<sup>th</sup>.

The lure of perfection—an object stripped to its essence, scrubbed of its inelegant early stages and streamlined in its production—can be tempting in both making and viewing art. Purity is reassuring: it affirms that there's a proper way to do things. But although **David Aylsworth** has spent years cultivating his painting process, refinement is not the goal. His arrangements of hard-edged, brightly colored shapes, reworked layer by improvised layer, never presume to be the final, definitive version of themselves. His paintings have been known to change even after they leave the studio, as deeply buried pigments seep up. Imperfection is embedded in Aylsworth's method: edges are never quite smooth; colors, scumbled or applied wet-on-wet, are adulterated; the surface is a pocked moonscape of thinly concealed revisions. Shapes bat at each other like whiffed high-fives or linger near the canvas edge like miscued actors. Even characterizing Aylsworth's painting as purely nonobjective isn't exactly right; canted horizon lines, overlapping forms and wide hazy expanses admit an ambiguous depth into his compositions. *Dubonnet in the Nude*, built around a low strip of blue in a white field, might plausibly be understood as a seascape. The central form in *Clarinets of Every Size*, gently curving along its lower edge and underlined by a shadowy gray band, seems to project from the canvas in shallow perspective. No statement is unequivocal, and no reading is authoritative.

The seeming nonchalance radiating from Aylsworth's clunky shapes and gleefully noisy palette is in fact a purposeful irreverence. Perfection offers a static sort of contentment. An ideal presumes a stopping point, and Aylsworth—notably prolific—shows no signs of slowing down. His paintings' early missteps are a means of surprising himself, of discovering tangents that a more structured approach would close off. His accumulated slips and reversals veer at the last moment into unlikely harmonies, still jittering with the exhilaration of a narrowly averted crash. Living things move. They adapt, make the best of their lot, and gather scars. The exuberance of Aylsworth's painting is a survivor's vitality, one that sees adventure in uncertainty, and values ingenuity over faultlessness.



David Aylsworth, *Clarinets of Every Size*, 2015  
oil on canvas, 17 x 17 inches

**David Aylsworth** (born 1966, Tiffin, OH) lives and works in Houston. He earned a B.F.A. from Kent State University, Ohio, in 1989, and was an artist resident at the Core Program, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, from 1989-1991. Aylsworth's paintings are included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Dallas Museum of Art; the El Paso Museum of Art; and the Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi. His recent solo exhibitions include *David Aylsworth*, Morgan Lehman Gallery, NY (2014); *Five, Six, Seven, Eight*, Holly Johnson Gallery, Dallas (2013); *The Reverses Wiped Away*, Inman Gallery (2012); and *Fugue for Tin horns Sound Like Frère Jacques*, Ellen Noël Art Museum of the Permian Basin, Odessa (2008). In 2011 his paintings were included in the group exhibition *Working in the Abstract: Rethinking the Literal*, Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

For more information and images, please contact the gallery at [info@inmangallery.com](mailto:info@inmangallery.com) or phone 713.526.7800.