

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Michelle Blade

April 6 – May 12, 2018
Opening Reception April 6, 6 - 8 pm
Free and open to the public



Image: *Evening Routine*, 2018, acrylic ink on paper, 14.5 x 18in. (36.83 x 45.72 cm)

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present Portland, Oregon-based artist Michelle Blade in her first solo exhibition in the gallery's project room. Featuring a new body of ethereal ink paintings, Blade explores layers of interior and exterior landscapes and their correlating psychologies. Inspired by humanity and the spectacular in nature, Blade takes cues from German Expressionism as well as the changing conditions of her own lived experience. The human element is a factor in all works, and where the figure is not present, traces of human activity are evident. The untamed nature of both individuals and the landscape are emphasized, questioning the substance that separates and binds individuals and their surroundings.

Moving through the exhibition one can almost feel an ambient glow bouncing between works. Unique to Blade's paintings is the flattening of light to create an otherworldly eternal time where night and day become indistinguishable, at times the light source seemingly emanating from figures themselves. Setting is also blended, creating scenes in which internal and external elements are simultaneously divided yet linked by glass windowpanes. It is through her juxtaposition of shadowy, celestial figures, the full moon, and the quiet beauty of domestic still lifes, that Blade nimbly mines the subconscious, channeling the intangible.

About Michelle Blade

Michelle Blade is a visual artist working in painting, sculpture, and installation. Driven by the inescapable qualities of the natural world, Blade's work investigates curiosity and one's search for meaning and place in the universe. Blade holds a BA from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, and an MFA from the California College of the Arts, San Francisco. Blade has exhibited nationally and internationally, including solo shows at the Center for Contemporary Arts (Santa Fe), Carter and Citizen (Los Angeles), Jack Hanley (San Francisco), and Western Exhibitions (Chicago). Her work has been featured in the New York Times Magazine, The Paris Review, Gather Journal, GQ, Juxtapoz, The California Sunday Magazine, and the Blue Magazine, among others. She currently splits her time between Los Angeles, CA and Portland, OR.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

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