

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

**Don Stinson:** *The Road to Valentine*  
October 25 – November 23, 2013

Opening reception: Friday, October 25, 7 – 9 pm  
Artist in attendance. / Free and open to the public.



Don Stinson, *The Road to Valentine*, 2013, 42 x 80 inches (106.7 x 203.2 cm)

Renowned painter Don Stinson returns to Denver with his first solo exhibition in the city in eight years. Featuring a series of brand new monumental works completed over the last year, *The Road to Valentine*, showcases Stinson's synthesis of Western American landscape traditions with timely and compelling questions of contemporary art.

Exploring topics of space and experience, ecology, and development—as well as critiquing the comfortable Western clichés which permeate much of the conversation regarding contemporary Western American art—Stinson's most recent body of work depicts familiar and unfamiliar scenes of the American West: vertical slot canyons and ice climbing havens are side by side with the wide vistas of western Texas and Utah's Great Salt Lake.

For this exhibition Stinson continues his dialogue with the earthworks which dot the American West in a magnificent new painting depicting Smithson's *Spiral Jetty* buried in sea foam; a phenomenon which occurs when decaying brine shrimp collect in the artwork's curving structure. In addition, Stinson questions the human impact and use of these spaces over time, and the impulse to observe them through digital photography as a method of remembering a journey or conceptualizing the experience of a space for the first time, in response to the constant visual consumption of today.

Accompanying the exhibition will be a full-color catalogue featuring a foreword by Thomas Smith, Director of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art at the Denver Art Museum, as well as a comprehensive essay written by the DAM's Karen Brooks.

Please join us to celebrate the opening of *The Road to Valentine*, at the gallery on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, from 7 – 9 pm.

**About Don Stinson**

Don Stinson is an acclaimed artist with works in numerous public and private collections, including the Denver Art Museum, The Phoenix Art Museum, and the Art in Embassies Program in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, among others. He is the recipient of numerous grants and awards including the Colorado Council on the Arts Director's Grant, and the Best of Show at the Coors Art Exhibit at the National Western Stock Show, among others. His work has appeared in numerous solo and group exhibitions, with prominent showings at the Nicolaysen Art Museum, Casper, Wyoming, the Coors Western Art Exhibit, Denver, Colorado, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, Colorado and Artist Space, New York. Stinson received a BFA in 1978 from the Colorado State University and an MFA in 1982 from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and Tufts University. Stinson was born in Amarillo, Texas, and he currently lives and works in Evergreen, Colorado.

**About David B. Smith Gallery**

David B. Smith Gallery is Denver's venue for compelling contemporary art. The gallery specializes in the exhibition and sale of progressive contemporary artwork from emerging international artists. Since its founding in 2007, the gallery has been committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions featuring work from some of today's most dynamic artists with growing international reputations. Through participation in leading art fairs and extensive media coverage, David B. Smith Gallery has grown a strong regional, national and international collector audience. The New York Times hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works." The gallery is located on Wazee Street in the historic LoDo neighborhood of Denver. In addition to its curatorial program, David B. Smith Gallery maintains an active publishing division, which produces limited edition artist prints, monographs, and exhibition catalogues.