

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Chris Oatey
Aerial Perspective

October 9 - November 7, 2020

Socially Distanced Opening Reception: Friday, October 9, 2020, from 6-9pm

****No appointment necessary, facemask required for entry, maximum 10 people admitted at a time*

Free and open to the public

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to welcome back Denver-based artist Chris Oatey for his first solo exhibition with the gallery, *Aerial Perspective*. Presented in the gallery's project room, Oatey's minimal grayscale palette, realized in techniques ranging from precision hand drawings to abstracted carbon "rubblings" create a harmonious dialogue between restraint and release in the artistic process.

Chris Oatey's practice has been consistently informed by a cartographic sensibility. He produces a wide range of works from the intricately hand drawn to the raw, immediate recording of his everyday surroundings. Oatey skillfully documents surface textures in and out of the studio. His work highlights the unexpected and overlooked aspects of both materials and ordinary sites.

The works in *Aerial Perspective* are the result of disparate yet connected sites of production. For example, Oatey drives over large swaths of paper in parking lots, using the car's mass to index cracks, potholes and patterns of weathering. Back in the studio, one process informs another, resulting in intersections of texture and randomness that are subtly layered together.

Offering alternating moments of meditative mark making and curious geographical recording, tonal works on paper act as receptacles for observational catalogue. The mundane becomes new again, whether it be through tightly controlled gestures or a collaborative process between asphalt and car tires. In *Aerial Perspective*, Chris Oatey employs subtle humor, using differing modes to capture the aura of place and time, physically imprinting the phantasms that haunt the everyday.

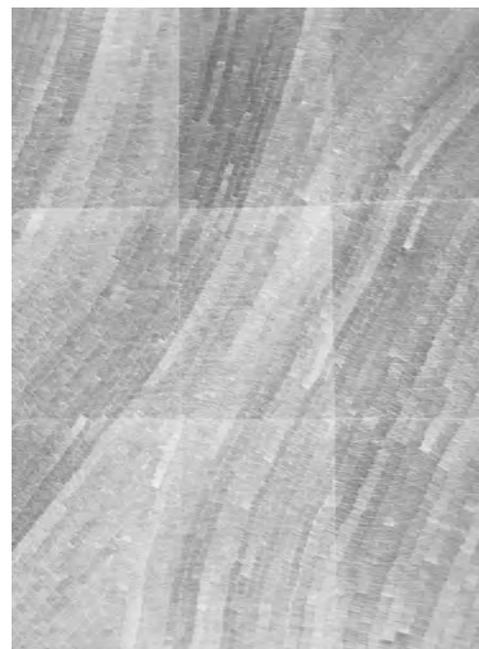


Image: Chris Oatey, *Birds Eye View*, 2019, carbon on paper, 36 x 27 in. (91.4 x 68.6 cm)

About Chris Oatey

Chris Oatey has a BS in Cartography from the University of Colorado, Boulder and MFA from Otis College of Art and Design. He has had numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the U.S. including *Abundant, Bountiful, and Beautiful* at the Long Beach Museum of Art and *Paperworks* at the Craft and Folk Art Museum Los Angeles (CAFAM). He has received a grant from The Durfee Foundation, a residency fellowship from the Ucross Foundation, and was the recipient of the Friends of Contemporary Art + Photography Prize from the New Mexico Museum of Art.

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.