

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Chris Oatey & Dylan Gebbia-Richards

January 20-February 18, 2017

Opening Reception: Friday, January 20, 2017, 6-9pm

Free and open to the public / Artists in Attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present the first dual exhibition from Chris Oatey and Dylan Gebbia-Richards. At its surface, this pairing juxtaposes high contrast black-and-white drawings and overly saturated wax panels, but together these works delve into human perception of nature and the interplay between entropy and order. In this exhibition, each artist has dedicated himself to a single medium, carbon on paper for Oatey and highly-pigmented paraffin wax for Gebbia-Richards, and their respective explorations of each medium's unique properties. Equally laborious in their unique manifestations, the works of Oatey and Gebbia-Richards revel in their repetition, initially implying chaos, but over time exhibiting an underlying order. The carbon remnants imply memories on the page and the wax layers, the subtleties of intuition.

For Oatey nature is subject – snow and ocean depicted behind a manmade linear structure. The carbon paper itself from natural origins made into a tool by placing the pigment-coated paper between two blank sheets. These subjects and images offer a reference to the sublime and man's interaction with nature creating scenes for reflection. The carbon paper is reused to produce this series, leaving memories of the previous drawings thus creating a record and narrative of their making.

Gebbia-Richards applies layers upon layers of wax to large panels reminiscent of accumulated snow or coral reefs. Creating 'micro-climates' of controlled temperature and pressure to produce these works, these paintings are natural results of his devised artistic weather system. Each panel is its own microcosm; an exploration of the connection between chaos and logic, the subconscious and the intuition. Seeming entropy organizes into fractal structures revealing a logic from the chaos inherent in this particular act of mark making.

About Chris Oatey

Oatey currently lives and works in Denver, CO. He moved to Denver in 2013 from Los Angeles, where he received an MFA from Otis College of Art and Design. He has a BS in Cartography from the University of Colorado, Boulder (2000). He has had numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the U.S. He is currently part of the show *Abundant, Bountiful, and Beautiful* at the Long Beach Museum of Art through March 2017. His work was featured in the Howard Fox curated exhibition *Paperworks* at the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles (2015). He has received an artist completion grant from The Durfee Foundation (2008), a residency fellowship (2009) from the Ucross Foundation, and was the recipient of the Friends of Contemporary Art + Photography Prize from the New Mexico Museum of Art (2015).

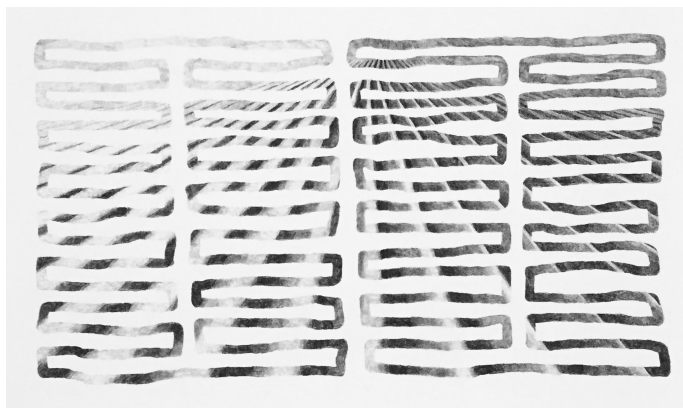


Image: Chris Oatey, *Corduroy 2*, carbon on paper, 20 x 25 in.
(50.8 x 63.5 cm)

About Dylan Gebbia-Richards

Born in 1992 in Greenwich, Connecticut, Gebbia-Richards lives and works in Boulder, CO. He received his BFA in Painting and his BA in Art History at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He is currently completing Post-Baccalaureate work at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Gebbia-Richards has exhibited widely in the Denver/Boulder area having been included in exhibitions at the Denver International Airport and McNichols Civic Center. He has also shown in Connecticut and New York. He was recently published in *New American Paintings* and has upcoming solo shows at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art and Redline in Denver, Colorado.

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.