

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Sarah McKenzie
White Walls

September 9-October 8, 2016

Opening Reception: Friday, September 9, 2016, 6-8pm

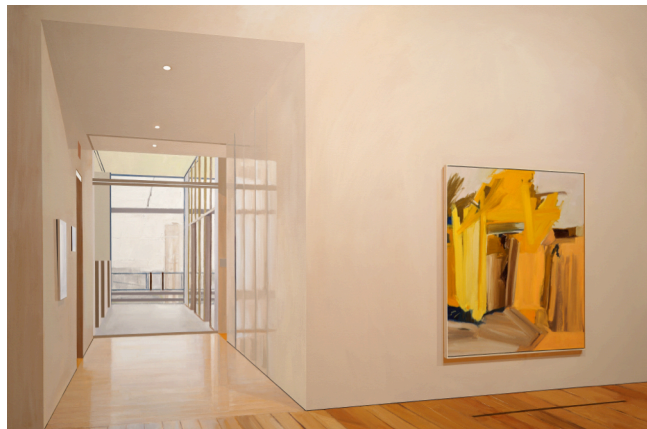
Artist Talk: Wednesday, October 5, 2016, doors open at 6:30pm

Free and open to the public / Artist in Attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to present Sarah McKenzie's second solo exhibition with the gallery, *White Walls*. With this exhibition, McKenzie continues her exploration of architectural spaces, but enters into the austere walls of art world spaces: art fair tents, galleries, and museums. Previous work has explored the architecture of overlooked and abandoned sites, the mundane. *White Walls* enters into those unnoticed angles of presumably hallowed art halls confronting their assumed simplicity in order to explore their architectural and conceptual complexity. McKenzie grants access to a world separated, for some, from the everyday, and glorifies a space designed to hide behind the artworks hanging on the wall.

McKenzie's practice of layering oils and acrylics on canvas generates complex surfaces that vacillate between realism and abstraction. Pattern and surface come to the forefront of these works when viewed in person, distancing the viewer from the architectural subject while pulling one into its geometry. These paintings often include artworks from other artists, slightly obscured and abstracted becoming a part of the scenery as opposed to the focus of the composition as would be the case in real life. This creates a paradigm shift for the viewer to reexamine the typical experience of a work of art within these often controlled gallery spaces. In *White Walls*, the viewer offers the only human presence within the painting. Often devoid of a human element, McKenzie's paintings force the viewer to consider his or her own position relative to the image. This absence is felt, calling attention to the convention of white walls and allowing the architecture to take on its own physicality in the presence of the viewer.

This exhibition includes a few works recently on view in McKenzie's solo exhibition at the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art. To commemorate the exhibition, the gallery will publish a catalogue including contributions from John Seed and Katherine Nicholson.



About Sarah McKenzie

Sarah McKenzie's work has been exhibited at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, the Yale School of Architecture, the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe, the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, the Aspen Art Museum and at the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art. McKenzie recently completed a residency at Ucross Foundation (Clearmont, WY) and she received a Colombel-Soros Printmaking Edition Award and Residency at Zygote Press in Cleveland, Ohio. In 2012 McKenzie received a Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Grant. Her paintings have been featured in *Art in America*, *The New York Times*, *The Denver Post*, *The Huffington Post*, *Dwell* magazine, and *New American Paintings*. McKenzie received her MFA in 1998 from the University of Michigan, and her BA in Film Studies from Yale. McKenzie lives and works in Boulder, Colorado.

Image: Sarah McKenzie, *Door to the River* (Whitney Museum with Willem de Kooning, 2015), 2016, oil and acrylic on canvas, 48 x 72 in. (121.9 x 182.9 cm)

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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