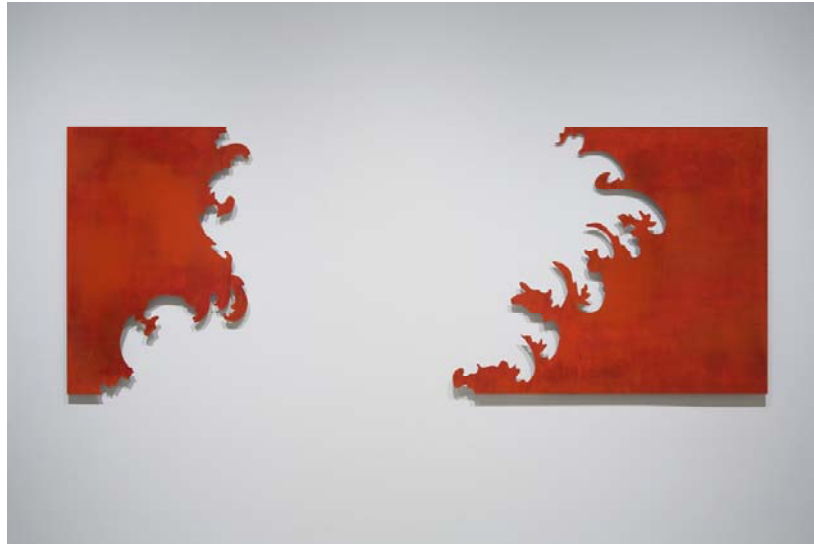


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HERRINGER KISS GALLERY

**Press Release
Representing Laurel Smith**



The Herringer Kiss Gallery is proud to announce the representation of **Laurel Smith**.

Laurel Smith is a contemporary minimal painter who lives and works in Calgary, Canada. She studied art at the University of Calgary and went on to receive a BFA with distinction from the Alberta College of Art and Design, Calgary, and a MFA from Concordia University, Montreal. She is the recipient of several awards including: Canada Council for the Arts; Alberta Foundation for the Arts; Eastern Canada Winner of the RBC Investments 6th Annual Painting Competition; The Brucebo Foundation; Concordia University Fellowship; Sheila Hugh MacKay Foundation; and she was awarded both the Illingworth Kerr Travel Award and the Illingworth Kerr Academic Achievement Award. Smith has exhibited across North America and in Europe. Smith's solo exhibitions include the Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art: Living Utopia and Disaster (Alberta Art Gallery, Edmonton and Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff), the Nickle Arts Museum (About Time: Contemporary Painting in Calgary), Peak Gallery (LS is more), Paul Kuhn Gallery (Unrepentant Exposure I and II), the Edmonton Art Gallery, New Brunswick Museum of Art, McMaster Art Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto, (RBC Painting Competition), VAV Gallery, Montreal (Homecoming), Visual Arts Center, Montreal (Collective Visions), UQAM Centre de Diffusion, Montreal (Sur la Ligne/On the Line), Contemporary Museum of Art, Baltimore (Snapshot), Bourget Gallery, Montreal (Critical Distance), Laval University, Laval (Baltic Watercolors), Stride Gallery, Calgary (Painting Insides) and the Marion Nicoll +15 Gallery, Calgary (Sedimental Shifts).

Smith's paintings reside in public and private collections including the Alberta

Foundation for the Arts, Visby Konstmuseum, Glenbow Museum, and Royal Bank of Canada. Her work has appeared in Canadian Art Magazine, Mass Art Guide, The Calgary Herald, Globe and Mail, RBC 2008 Calendar, Watercolor Magazine, FastForward Magazine, The Link, and in exhibition catalogues.

Laurel Smith was born near the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Her paintings echo that environment. The early works were constructed by applying the sludge residue of recycled oil paints onto shaped canvases. These paintings are reminiscent of the geological strata of rock formations. The shadows cast by the shaped canvases informed and evolved into her minimal paintings that cast reflected color onto the wall. Her newest body of paintings combine two diametrically opposed design styles: the austerity of 20C Minimalism and ornate embellishment of 18C Rococo into a form that Smith coins "Ornaminimalism". Smith combines industrial with handmade techniques by applying more than twenty glazes of colors to create an all-over surface upon her custom laser cut panels. The dense color of the multi-layered surface contrasts the borders of the paintings' edges. These contrasting edges activate the wall as an ornamental element thereby expanding the traditional boundaries and impact that paintings have upon their surround. Her works reflect her longstanding fascination of class and taste. Smith states, "The paintings reflect my view of contemporary society's excessive consumer culture, which contradicts a desire for the simple." The paintings have titles like 'The glee of little kings', 'Monarchy of the minimal', 'Fuss', and 'Apres nous, le deluge'.

Laurel Smith will have her first solo exhibition at the Herringer Kiss Gallery from June 14th to July 12, 2008. For more information, please contact Deborah Herringer Kiss at 403-228-4889 or Deborah@herringerkissgallery.com