

David Imlay

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Artist Statement

Homer once described nostalgia as a "pain" or "ache"; the Greek believe that it is like a wound that hasn't yet healed-a painful return home (nostos, return home, algios, pain); the Swiss feared that by singing certain songs, a nostalgic reaction would occur leading to illness or death-those who sang these songs were punished; in Latin, it is to be unaware, to not know and have never experienced-to lack or to miss; the German's speak of it as an absent thing-something that has both existed and has never existed.

For David Imlay, art becomes a mnemonic voyage in built form powered by nostalgia. As an artist, he is aware of his own history, but critical of its seductions. In his paintings documenting downtown streetscapes, freeway overpasses, empty diners, he hopes to connect the viewer with the plurality of fleeting nostalgia and hope. With his usage of warm light and limited color, he attempts to conjure an emotional dissonance reflecting stillness and isolation.

"I try not to be too specific in my work and choose commonplace subjects that we see everyday but don't necessarily ponder over. A cafe, phone booth or overpass-these are all places we've been to or seen before and can easily relate to."

Born in Southern California and raised in San Juan Capistrano David first became interested in art at an early age. He was fortunate enough to have the encouragement and support of his family-including his grandfather, Theron Imlay, a renowned Southwest Oil and Pastel Artist in the 1970's. David moved to San Jose in 1995 where he studied Illustration at San Jose State University as well as Lorenzo De Medici in Florence, Italy in 2000. He graduated with a BFA in Illustration in 2001 and currently resides in San Francisco where he now works as a freelance Illustrator and Fine Artist.

Exhibits

2009, Artist-Xchange, San Francisco, Group Exhibition
2009, Triple Crown, San Francisco, Solo Exhibition
2009, 111 Minna, Group Exhibition: Neighborhood SF
2009, Gallery 560, San Francisco, Group Exhibition
2008, Lost Art Salon/Reaves Gallery, San Francisco, Group Exhibition
2008, Hartside Homes Artist Studio & Gallery, Bolsa Chica, Solo Exhibition
2008/2009, Reaves Gallery, San Francisco, Solo & Group Exhibitions
2007 & 2008, Neue Transit Gallery, Santa Ana, Solo Exhibitions
2007, Madrone Lounge, San Francisco, Group Exhibition: Family
2007, Gallerie 25, San Francisco, Solo Exhibition
2006, Wine Bar & Gallery, San Francisco, Solo Exhibition: Artspan Open Studios
2006/2007, Space Gallery, San Francisco, Group Exhibitions
2006, Dragon Bar, San Francisco, Joint Exhibition: Youth Speaks Benefit
2005, 550 Bryant Gallery, San Francisco, Group Exhibition
2005 & 2007, Mission Barrack's Gallery, San Juan Capistrano, Solo Exhibitions
2004, Sirens Salon & Gallery, Los Gatos, Solo Exhibition
2003 to Present, Aliso Viejo Golf Club, Permanent Collection
2003 to Present, ISLG of Campbell & ISLG of Los Gatos, Permanent & Rotating Collection
2002 & 2004, Great Bear Coffee, Los Gatos, Solo Exhibitions