



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
(248) 370-3005**

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
ART GALLERY**

Department of Art & Art History
College of Arts and Sciences
208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309
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IDEALIZING THE IMAGINARY: ILLUSION AND INVENTION IN CONTEMPORARY PAINTING

January 14 - April 1, 2012

Opening reception, Saturday, January 14, 5-8:00PM

Kevin Baker	Mark Flood
Trudy Benson	Rosy Keyser
Katherine Bernhardt	José Lerma
Cecily Brown	Dasha Shishkin
Matt Connors	Josh Smith
Jesse Chapman	Denyse Thomasos
Kim Dorland	Wendy White

Central to the practice of the painters in this exhibition is the expansion of the imaginary as the primary source of their compositions and as such their practice is rooted in invention and the mind's eye. The resulting works are reflexive of something intrinsic to contemporary painting: creating a surface that is neither a window onto the extant, nor a mirror, but rather a platform expressing the interior feelings and thoughts of each artist onto a vital exterior surface.

The dimensional, spatial arena in which these artists work is unique to the time and locale of their painting. And to be sure, it is a charged moment when the immense proliferation of images, digital or otherwise, has expanded rapidly outward like an infinite exploding universe. More information exists than can ever be processed. We no longer live in the information age rather we have entered the age of conceptuality. How these artists think and feel has become infinitely more significant to them than recounting what they have seen.

These artists reinvigorate and reintroduce painting as something urgently relevant, interdisciplinary and contemporaneous. Through painting, they make their thoughts and feelings universally accessible for everyone to experience. They make painting a transcendent practice, not one defined by image or doctrine, but rather by idealization of the imaginary and the recognition that invention and illusion are the engines of artistic freedom, change and necessity.

This survey of contemporary painting, drawn from the stables of nine eminent New York galleries and the Olga Korper Gallery, Toronto, brings the work of fourteen major New York artists to Detroit, most of whom are debuting their work here for the first time.

Curated by Dick Goody, this exhibition is accompanied by a sixty-page full-color catalogue.

Open every day noon to 5pm, closed Mondays; open evenings during theatre performances. All events free. The gallery is next to Meadow Brook Theatre, on the Oakland University campus, Rochester, MI 48309, exit # 79 off I-75, (248) 370 3005. If images are required for publication contact jaleow@oakland.edu. OUAG is supported in part by grants from The Kresge Foundation and the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs.