

BAMBOO LANE / REVISITED
418 BAMBOO LANE
CHINATOWN/LOS ANGELES 90012
gallery hours: Wednesday – Saturday 12-6 + by appt.
contact: Leora Lutz / Gallery Director
www.galleryrevisited.com

May 31 , 2005 FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION & IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Portraits”: June 18 – July 23, 2005 / preview days June 15-17
Reception for the artists: June 18 Saturday 7pm – 10pm

Sean Cheetham, Shizu Saldamando, Marci Washington, Joshua Petker,
Siuan McGahan, David Glynn, Todd Becraft, Paige Wery.

Bamboo Lane / Revisited is pleased to announce this compelling exhibit of portraits by 8 Los Angeles based artists. This exhibit has been conceived over the past year, prompted by the debate amongst critics & art patrons alike, regarding the perceived lack of skill in much art execution versus the seemingly unskilled execution of conceptual art, questioning the validity of each in exhibition worthiness. In addition, the point of artists' worthiness based on resume versus skill is a constant, open to further debate.

The artists in the exhibit have a varied range of backgrounds & mannerisms, from classical to naïve, from self-taught to those who have received their Masters of Fine Arts Degree. What is common with all of them is the strong, unambiguous connection with the people around them who inspire them & are the subjects of their work. This human connection may be the proposed advantage in favor of work by those who paint people & those who do not.

Sean Cheetham is a classical contemporary portrait painter who is sweeping both the traditional & avant-garde gallery circuits. His portraits are complex & contemplative or confrontational in expression. Sean received his BFA from Art Center College of Design in 2002 & has been exhibiting nationwide. His classical ability was enhanced by studies with Aaron Smith & Mike Hussar. His portrait, “Chantal Menard” was selected for the BP Portrait Award in conjunction with the National Portrait Museum of London. It will be traveling throughout Great Britain until March 2006 & is featured on the cover of the award catalogue.

Shizu Saldamando draws people caught in moments, like those from a snap shot photograph. She works with painstaking detail rendered in pen on canvas, linen or on creased, white handkerchiefs, the latter being a reference to her Latina heritage. Her men & women are her friends & the people around her within their social context at dance clubs, art receptions or parties. Saldamando received her BFA from UCLA School of Arts & Architecture & her MFA from California Institute of the Arts 2005.

Marci Washington paints delicate & waiflike women in mid- thought, sometimes lost in a daydream. Her work is careful & decided, adding elegance & a literary sense of nostalgia. Her people are within but at the same time removed from nature - which is rendered in distant stark landscapes accented by branches of fruit or sprigs of flora. In addition, she paints portraits of animals in regal or playful stances. Marci received her BFA from the California College of Arts & Crafts in 2002. She has been exhibiting nation wide & in Belgium.

Joshua Petker's fantastic use of color is evocative of feminine wiles and strong auras, imparting an assumed understanding of what vixens really are. Not all of his women are vixens – some are glamorous, some are young – all are captivating & fashionably timeless. Joshua ran in the streets with graffiti artists during his youth and continues to be inspired by the art of that lifestyle, as well as Klimt & Schiele. He studied drawing at the Lorenzo de' Medici in Florence, after attending Evergreen State College where he received a BA in Social Science, 2002. Joshua Petker was recently selected for the LACMA “Arts Here & Now” Program.

Siuan McGahan approaches painting people with excitement for the lives they lead & with her love for creating moments of engagement. Her paintings reflect the personalities of her models, complimented by costumes, fabrics & textiles. She allows the natural wood grain of the panels to show through as the skin of the subjects. McGahan received her BA in Mathematics & Philosophy from UCLA in 1995 & has been painting & exhibiting since she left her position in engineering for JPL.

David Glynn paints in grisaille as a symbolic reference to the formal painting process. Distorted renditions of the same face or faces are painted in vibrant colors floating in the foreground of the canvas. The distortions reinforce the social context of skin tones & conceptual metaphors. Glynn has studied at the Massachusetts College of Art, San Francisco Art Institute & the Rhode Island School of Design. His resume includes over a decade of exhibitions, an extensive bibliography & private collections listing.

Todd Becraft's surface is painterly & spontaneous without extensive overworking. His color is muted and misty. His images capture the mood of his subjects & are often near life size in scale. Becraft studied under private tutorship with Burton Silverman in New York, as well as under Dan Gheno at the National Academy of Design in New York. He has exhibited at Lincoln Center, the Mid Hudson Arts & Science Museum in Poughkeepsie & The Museum of the Hudson Highlands, amongst others. His work can be found in many private & corporate collections.

Paige Wery paints in a heavy impasto - building layers of paint, applying repeated dabs & working the surface into a finite mad frenzy of bits, stipples & scraps in bold, often cartoonish colors & expressions. The portraits are representative of her drive as an artist & present us with moments of obsession at its finest. Her style is naïve, yet rooted in the formal training that she rejected. She attended with frustration, California college of Arts & Crafts & the San Francisco Academy of Art. Her work was recently juried for inclusion in the Slotin Contemporary Folk Art Festival to be held in Georgia.