

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**June 19 – July 24, 2010  
CONDUIT GALLERY****Susan Barnett  
Ellen Berman  
Project Room: Kia Neill**

Conduit Gallery will open three new exhibitions with a reception for the artists Saturday, June 19, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:30PM. The exhibitions will June 19 through July 24, 2010. For more information, please contact Nancy Whitenack. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM.

**Susan Barnett*****Games and Icons***

*Games and Icons* will be Dallas artist Susan Barnett's second solo exhibition at Conduit Gallery. The large scale paintings, works on paper and single-channel video explores the recently popular number and logic puzzle, Sudoku. Barnett has created several series of paintings that illustrate single Sudoku games in various stages of completion using not numbers but colored squares. The effect is one of order and logic as the viewer moves from art work to art work, divining an absolute; as with the game of Sudoku, there can only be one right answer. Susan Barnett earned her Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from Southern Methodist University in 2008.

**Ellen Berman*****Every Day***

Often noted as a sensual painter, Ellen Berman's realist oil on panel paintings explore popular standards of perfection with a visual clarity so striking to the viewer that one wonders if such objects can exist outside of an idealized imagination. A variety of fruits and vegetables and the glass jars that contain them become both vehicles of the artist's masterful hand and forever escape their innate temporal nature. Plums, cantaloupes, eggplants and melons cavort atop vibrant color fields and in raking light that help elevate the every day into crystalline beautiful still-life.

Ellen Berman is a Texas artist who earned her M.F.A. from the University of Houston and currently resides in Wimberly, Texas. Exhibitions since 2004 include the Beeville Art Museum, Beeville, TX; the South Texas Institute for the Arts, Corpus Christi, TX; the Austin Museum of Art, Austin, TX and the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont. In 2006 Ellen Berman was selected as a Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome as a part of the U.S. Art in Embassies Program.

**Project Room****Kia Neill**

Through sculpture and drawing, Kia Neill creates simulations of nature that blur discomfort and the fantastic. Extraordinary, almost extraterrestrial landscapes, such as caves and coral reefs serve as the reference point for Neill's graphite drawings and steel and polyurethane sculptures. The works provoke the viewer's imagination to mentally wander through a space they cannot occupy.

Chicago Illinois native Kia Neill received her BFA from The Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, OH and her MFA from The University of California, San Diego.

Currently, she resides in Houston, TX. Recent exhibitions include a solo exhibition at Lawndale Art Center in Houston, and a solo exhibition at Women & Their Work in Austin Texas. Neill is a 2009 Houston Art Alliance Individual Artist Grant recipient. Neill is full-time faculty at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston Glassell School of Art and an instructor at the Houston Center for Photography.