

# JAMES HARRIS GALLERY

309A THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, SEATTLE, WA 98104  
tel: 206.903.6220 fax: 206.903-6226 www.jamesharrisgallery.com

## PRESS RELEASE

### STEVE DAVIS: CAPTURED YOUTH

February 8th - March 10th 2007

Reception: Thursday, February 8th, 6:00-8:00 PM

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James Harris Gallery is pleased to present Steve Davis' epic series, *Captured Youth*. For the past 10 years, Davis' work has investigated and oftentimes critiqued the way contemporary culture deals with people who reside at the margins, the so-called underbelly of our social classes. From people with mental and physical disabilities to incarcerated teens and senior citizens, Davis records the reality of lives we seldom see and tend to neglect.

In stark contrast to the posed scenes that are fashionable in photography today, Davis' projects are more akin to straightforward documentary image making. The palpable relationships the photographer has developed with his subjects – some of the series span more than 10 years – gives the work a rare and poignant honesty.

In the series on view at the gallery, Davis has photographed incarcerated teens in Washington State correctional facilities. Continually struck by the simultaneous vacuity of these institutions and the intensity and passion found in the faces of its young residents, Davis records both the teenagers and the stark architectural spaces that frame these young people's lives. In their portraits, we read sorrow, pain, and sometimes even regret across these teenagers faces. Just as often pride, arrogance and anger come across. In contrast to these forlorn but sometimes hope-filled faces, the images of the prison architecture have little in terms of sanguinity; inhumane living environments and desolate conditions expose the reality of the situation. Together as a series *Captured Youth* thus forces us to consider some of the complicated social issues asking us how and why do our youth end up living, laughing, and suffering in exile.



Steve Davis is the Coordinator of Photography and faculty member at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. His work has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, and is in the collections of the George Eastman House, the Tacoma Art Museum and the Musee de la Photographie in Belgium. He is also a recent recipient of an Artist Trust Grant.

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Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday 11 to 5 and by appointment. Photography is available upon request.

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## PRESS RELEASE

### MARY ANN PETERS: IN AN INSTANT

February 8th - March 10th 2007

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James Harris Gallery is pleased to announce that we will be presenting several new works on paper from Mary Ann Peters' ever evolving series *In An Instant*. Leveraging the gallery's backroom as a place to present focused exhibitions, we bring Peters intimate and powerful drawings to inaugurate the new use of the JHG space.

These new works, sensuous in their forms and inviting in their reference to a personal territory, map a response to a place either real or imagined and what happens when an event suddenly and unexpectedly changes that landscape. Peters' unique formal vocabulary of Arabesque lines, organic shapes, and washes of graphite and color imbue the work with a rhythmic spontaneity and complexity that unfolds and abstracts. Organic fragments float, tumble and overlap creating an impression of atmospheric landscape that is in a state of flux.

For the artist, these drawings are queries first and foremost, questioning the nature of place, cornered and defined by biomorphic forms, architectural markers, ambiguous atmospheres, and the influence of perspective both near and far. Fleeting references intertwine to form both microscopic and macroscopic abstract pictorial landscapes. In these fine-spun and ethereal explorations, each mark adds to a dialogue between figure and ground: shapes, lines and colors overlap and fit together to create an illusory world.



Mary Ann Peters' work will also be on view at the Tacoma Art Museum's 8<sup>th</sup> Northwest Biennial from February 10 – May 6, 2007 and in the *Unexpected Watercolors* show at the Center on Contemporary Art opening February 16 – April 1.

Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday 11 to 5 and by appointment. Photography is available upon request.