



## ***The Sirens' Song***

Arthouse at the Jones Center  
Contemporary Art for Texas

**Arthouse at the Jones Center**  
January 20 – March 4, 2007

**Curated by Kelly Baum, Assistant Curator of American and Contemporary Art, Blanton  
Museum of Art, Austin**

### **Talking Art with Kelly Baum**

January 20, 3pm at the Jones Center

*The Sirens' Song* is an exhibition about painting, artists and one of the oldest and most powerful forms of communication: the story. In the last few years, there has been a resurgence of interest among artists in allegory and narrative—broadly speaking, in storytelling. By focusing on the work of Seth Alverson, Gilad Efrat, Joey Fauerso, Ali Fitzgerald, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Kirk Hayes, Philip Maysles, David McGee, Xiomara De Oliver, Vincent Valdez, William Villalongo, and Hilary Wilder, this exhibition seeks to understand how artists, in particular painters, employ storytelling as one of their primary expressive devices, not as an end in itself, but rather to meditate on personal memories and collective experiences or to weigh in on history and current events. In the process, these artists create a productive, compelling confusion between the real and the imagined, between non-fiction and fiction, and between representation and abstraction. The title of the exhibition, as well as the general curatorial perspective, takes its inspiration from an essay by novelist and literary critic Maurice Blanchot, who described the myth of the Sirens as the archetypal story—that is, as a story about stories, or about the poetic and structural nature of stories.

- Kelly Baum

Included in the exhibition are works by:

**Seth Alverson** (Houston, TX)  
**Gilad Efrat** (New York, NY)  
**Joey Fauerso** (San Antonio, TX)  
**Ali Fitzgerald** (Austin, TX)  
**Trenton Doyle Hancock** (Houston, TX)  
**Kirk Hayes** (Fort Worth, TX)

**Philip Maysles** (Houston, TX)  
**David McGee** (Houston, TX)  
**Xiomara De Oliver** (New York, NY)  
**Vincent Valdez** (Los Angeles, CA)  
**William Villalongo** (Brooklyn, NY)  
**Hilary Wilder** (Brooklyn, NY)

### **About the Curator**

Kelly Baum received her Ph.D. in art history from the University of Delaware in 2005. She worked for two years as the Curatorial Assistant of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, before becoming the Assistant Curator of American and Contemporary Art at the Blanton Museum of Art in 2002.

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## **Support**

This exhibition is supported by **Texas Commission on the Arts**.

Arthouse Season Sponsors: **Austin Ventures, Jones Asset Management, Mastodon Ventures, Inc. and The Rosemary Haggar Vaughan Family Foundation**

Arthouse at the Jones Center is supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art.

Arthouse public programs are supported by **The Berman Family Foundation**.

## **About Arthouse**

Headquartered at the Jones Center in Austin, Texas, Arthouse is the oldest statewide contemporary visual art organization in Texas. Arthouse seeks to promote the growth and appreciation of contemporary art and artists in Texas. Through its exhibitions and programs in Austin and statewide, Arthouse helps nurture artists' careers and deepen public understanding of contemporary art. All exhibitions and programs at Arthouse are free and open to the public.

**For more information on Arthouse, please visit [www.arthousetexas.org](http://www.arthousetexas.org), or contact Virginia Jones at [vjones@arthousetexas.org](mailto:vjones@arthousetexas.org) or at tel. (512) 453-5312.**

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