

**For Immediate Release: Jan 25, 2012** - Holly Johnson Gallery in Dallas is pleased to announce the opening of *Inside Out: New Paintings by William Betts*. A reception for the artist will be held Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8 pm. The exhibit continues through March 24<sup>th</sup>.

In *Inside Out*, the artist has created paintings of both outdoor and interior spaces selected for scale and depth and the space relative to the viewer. He selected the spaces specifically to explore and better understand the relationship between the viewer, the paintings, and the context in which the work is viewed. The subject matter of the exhibition is broad in scope yet all of the images speak of containment, having strong formal qualities as well as layers of depth and complexity. Whether a lyrical rococo interior or a deep impenetrable forest, these spaces embrace us in a defined realm and envelop viewers into the story.

For more than a decade the artist has focused his practice on software-controlled processes he developed for applying paint. He uses industrial production methods to achieve a level of precision that allows him to manipulate and corrupt specific aspects of process. He has created this new body of work by drilling hundreds of thousands of holes in the back of acrylic mirrors and filling them with white paint drops. Though automated, the technique is exacting and time consuming. The imagery is incomplete and resolves itself only with the reflection. The use of the mirrored surface to complete the work does by its very nature act upon the space, its impact shifts based on interactions and point of view.

William Betts was born and raised in New York City. In 1991 he graduated from Arizona State University Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree. His work has been included in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the U.S. and will be shown in the upcoming, *Tracing the Grid*, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Germany. In 2012 Betts was selected for the New American Paintings' Second Annual Prize. In 2008 he won First Place at the Assistance League of Houston Celebrates Texas Art and was a finalist for the 2008 Hunting Art Prize. His work was included in the Texas Biennial in Austin in 2005 and 2007. Recent articles on his work include reviews in San Antonio Express-News, Artlies, Glasstire, Houston Chronicle, Houston Press, Albuquerque Tribune, Chicago Tribune and Chicago Reader. He currently lives in Houston.

Holly Johnson Gallery is located at 1411 Dragon Street. Gallery hours are 11 to 5, Tuesday through Saturday. The gallery is a member of CADD - Contemporary Art Dealers of Dallas. For more information call 214-369-0169, or visit [www.hollyjohnsongallery.com](http://www.hollyjohnsongallery.com).