

State of Contrast

August 12, 2019 – December 13, 2019



Jim Malone, *Thanks for Being Me*, 2016, mixed media, 32 x 40 inches.

Defining Texas Art in simple terms is like attempting to define the state itself. Just as there is no one Texas - Texas experience, culture, landscape, aesthetic - there is no singular quality that encompasses the artwork produced by Texas. The state is as diverse and wide-ranging as the people it embraces and landscapes they populate. With pine trees to the east, deserts to the west, plains to the north, and the valley and gulf to the south, it remains a region steeped in contrast and contradiction. *State of Contrast*, a group exhibition curated by Kinzelman Art Consulting and Foltz Fine Art, celebrates the communion of a classic vision of Texas with modern sensibility, nodding to Early Texas art and artists while paving a path for new perspectives.

A point of divergent cultures and landscapes, the region has fostered its population together for over 150 years. With art continuously evolving alongside history, it is evident that many artists in *State of Contrast* draw inspiration from Texas masters of the early twentieth century in their subject matter or style. From the rugged Big Bend Country found in paintings by Mary Baxter and David Caton, to the idyllic plains of the Gulf Coast depicted by Ken Mazzu, each capture a particular combination of beauty, richness and determined independence that is uniquely Texan. Furthermore, a number of works exhibited hone in on more specific events and landscapes, such as Arthur Deatly's instantly recognizable urban snapshots and the distinctly native Texas wildlife rendered in Malou Flato's nostalgic paintings.

In viewing artists as cultural barometers on the forefront of shifts occurring across our state and society at large, the diversity represented in *State of Contrast* demonstrates the innate strength binding us together, even as life in the twenty-first century seems to be rapidly changing. Walking through the exhibition, it is apparent that present-day Texas is a stark contrast to what it was 50 years ago. Our rural origins are often overlooked, yet many artists such as Pat Gabriel and Susu Meyer seek refuge in those places. These paintings serve as a reminder that not too far from our growing and bustling cities, we can rediscover the essence of what makes Texas so extraordinary. Although it's important to look ahead and grow within our society, it is equally vital to recognize and embrace our roots.

This exhibition is organized by Kinzelman Art Consulting on behalf of M-M Properties. For additional information about the exhibition, please call Kinzelman Art Consulting at 713.533.9923 or visit www.kinzelmanart.com.