

As seen in the
October 2010 issue of

 AMERICAN
art COLLECTOR



UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 10 works

October 1-30, 2010

David Klein Gallery

163 Townsend Street

Birmingham, MI 48009

(248) 433-3700

• SHOW LOCATION BIRMINGHAM, MI



ALYSSA MONKS

Fixation

Alyssa Monks's latest body of work, titled *Fixation*, on exhibit at the David Klein Gallery, deals with obfuscating the form and the way realism and abstraction can be interdependent in a painting.

"I've been thinking about my work psychologically lately and reality itself, and it's all very subjective," says Monks. "This work is about how we see, what we want to see and how people believe what they want to believe. The best realities or best conclusions typically come after a state of chaos or a state of confusion."

When coming up with the title of the show, Monks realized that the word "fixation" is something that ends up negating itself in the process of doing.

"When you focus on something that is really important it creates an altered state of reality and it becomes a sort of trance," says Monks. "And that is what happens to me as well when I paint these. Neurological books say that people like art that doesn't make sense initially but that coalesces after a moment of confusion. You get that 'aha' moment when things crystallize. And, when you push that, and get the reality right up against abstraction, there is just enough mystery and just enough recognizable reality for someone to get fixated."

And, while Monks' new series focuses on the faces of women partially or fully submerged in water, she tries to stay away from evoking any emotion that can come from facial expressions.

"There are easy kinds of facial expressions but I want to get that moment that happens between two states, the emotion that is not quite formed yet," says Monks. "There is a level of ambiguity to them and this helps to create a narrative around what the person might be experiencing, but I want to keep it kind of neutral so I don't fixate on just one kind of experience." ●



CHARADE, OIL ON LINEN, 48 X 32"

For a direct link to the
exhibiting gallery go to 
www.americanartcollector.com



STARE, OIL ON LINEN, 64 X 96"



CRYPTOLOGY, OIL ON LINEN, 48 X 72"

The Collector Says ...
"Alyssa Monks paints vapors, drips and bubbles so precisely that you are drawn to her surfaces to see how she has mastered this evanescent illusion. I think there is a combination of awe and suspicion mixed into your curiosity because on some level you would like to see her fail at this legerdemain. But she doesn't. Harder scrutiny only gives you greater pleasure. There is no weakness. There is no dismissing her paintings."

— *Eric Fischl*