

Profile: All Smith



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by Sasha Lee

All Smith's current exhibition at the Mark Moore Gallery, "We Find Ways" showcases a stunning selection of paintings from emerging talent All Smith. Smith is an adept colorist, manipulating seductive combinations in the tradition of Matisse. Her expressive compositions include swaths of pure, beautifully mixed vibrant colors conversing with linear detail and architectural yet organic structures, that are at once playful yet precarious. Referencing the formalist ploys of abstract expressionism, her works attempt to give the historical trope new relevancy.

Particularly stunning are unexpected combinations, such as in "Geek Love," a neon controlled chaos flaunting hot pink holding court with royal purple and small shots of electric blue. The quality of the paint itself is raw, seductive and visceral, seemingly applied in an off-the-cuff, intuitive fashion. Smith pairs sensuous passages of butter-cream brushstrokes with less delicate, rough instances of bold, impasto color. By having no fixed resolution in mind, her paintings adopt a spontaneous quality, as if recording her inner thought process, whims, or. Like neurological maps, the surfaces of her canvases document her evident love for the act of painting itself. Leslie Markle notes, "[All Smith's] canny knack for whimsy permits a delicate balance to exist between purely decorative gestures and those of grotesque vulgarity."

All Smith received her MFA from California State University, Long Beach, CA in 2003. In this past year alone she has had solo shows in Los Angeles, Boston and Houston as well as exhibiting her work in group shows in New York, Germany and Austria among others. She was recently included in Christopher Knight's article "45 Painters Under 45" in the Los Angeles Times. This will be her second solo exhibition at the Mark Moore Gallery. All Smith lives and works in Long Beach, CA.

To visit All Smith's website, visit: [All Smith.org](#)

To visit the Mark Moore Gallery, visit: [Mark Moore Gallery](#)