

# HAPPENINGS

## DANIEL MERRIAM Flight of Fantasy

October 21, 22 & 23, 2011

Historic Gaslamp Gallery • RSVP to [pr@ecgallery.com](mailto:pr@ecgallery.com) • (800) 204-0062



"Setting the Stage" Fine Art limited Edition, 24" x 36"

As the weather cools and we begin to celebrate the whimsical, mysterious and fantastical elements of the fall season, Exclusive Collections Galleries is excited to host Daniel Merriam at our Historic Gaslamp Gallery. Merriam's paintings delve deep into the imagination, calling forth in detail what only exists in fantasy – his art exposes the thoughts and emotions of an introvert and shares them with those who are seeking to express their own narrative.

Merriam's background in architecture, design, and illustration, plays a vital role in his ongoing progression of work. His paintings are "like a fingerprint" – unique and also an intrinsic part of his identity. Both collectors and artists hold Merriam's paintings in high regard for their exquisite detail and precision, as some of the greatest painters are those who can call forth an image and create a physical manifestation of the ideal constructed in their mind. His choice of pencil, watercolor and acrylic is delicate and unforgiving, and every new examination of his paintings reveals something previously undiscovered.

In respect and interest in the performing arts, Merriam has contemplated this discipline in his most recent limited editions, *Setting the Stage* and *Dress Rehearsal*. Throughout the ages, performers have played an important role in society as athletes, entertainers, and most impor-

tantly as storytellers. Their physical feats challenge the limits of the human body and enlighten the audience with a desire to impress and entertain. Against all odds, performers often make enormous sacrifices to do what they love and Merriam's paintings proclaim that in the midst of spectacle, truth is often stranger than fiction. Of *Setting the Stage*, Merriam writes, "An abundance of passion and mystery is hidden beneath the amusing costumes and the flamboyant presentation. It is this sensitive spot that marks a pivotal point in the artist's character, which makes the performance not only possible but amazing."

Merriam senses a growing interest in the performing arts today, noting a renaissance in the world of theater and dance. He feels that the circus "echoes life itself, in a more whimsical sense," and as people turn to the arts as a way to connect and respond to the world around them, Merriam is there to affirm that decision and to continue to open up the mind to what we feel.

These theatrical visions - playful, colorful, and mesmerizing - leave the viewer in awe and childlike fascination. Indeed, in all his works, he feels a tremendous respect for the minds of children, noting that, "Your feelings, thoughts, impressions then, have as much integrity as we do now as adults. They take on a vividness and importance in a child's mind. I haven't abandoned those qualities, but fostered them."

It is never too late to appeal to the imagination. In honor of that ideal, Daniel Merriam explores themes that remain relevant and enchanting. His technical ability as an artist celebrates both the odd and bizarre, the beautiful and the human. It conveys strength



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with vulnerability, and captures our collective response, which the artist describes as a "synergy of human emotion."

We look forward to hosting Daniel Merriam October 21-23,

2011 for an exhibition of his most recent masterpieces. We invite you to join us for this unique opportunity to meet a living master and to learn more about his amazing works of art.