

For Immediate Release

June, 19, 2006

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Anya Tish Gallery in conjunction with Art Houston will present, It's All about Atmosphere, an exhibition of paintings by Johnny Robertson. The opening reception for the artist will take place Friday, July 7, 6 – 9 pm, and there will be an Open House, Saturday, 11- 5 pm. The gallery is located at 4411 Montrose Boulevard.

The primary sources of inspiration for Robertson's paintings are Texas landscapes (Robertson is from Lubbock), and the unique dynamic of the Texas to California road trip (for which he received a Dozier Travel Grant in 2001).

The artist considers his paintings as landscapes, even though the works show no discernable land marks and do not relate to specific places or events. "Ultimately", says Robertson, "the work is about atmosphere; that fleeting sense of space whose quality of both density and nothingness carries the identity or character of a particular place or experience. I refer to and usually title specific paintings by their image and call it the subject, but the content is really driven by the properties of the passive space: color, saturation, surface, and sometimes scale . . . the atmosphere."

The artist uses power lines, streetlights, and palm trees as reference points around which to build atmospheres. These paintings do not attempt to describe the physicality of a particular place but rather the weight, depth, and personality of a place. The images tend to reveal themselves slowly; at first as areas of specificity, and eventually, as depicting the realm of the familiar, for they represent the emotional rather than the physical aspect of what we experience as spatial. "Each layer of paint or glaze is like a particular aspect of the place or the experience," Robertson describes, "Some overpower others, some are nearly invisible, and some just rub through."

*Long Beach Airport* captures the alluring atmosphere of the landscape of southern California. This opaque, dusty-rose painting exhibits both minimalism and attention-to-surface, which are of central importance in Robertson's work. "I have resisted calling the

works 'American Landscapes,' says Robertson, "but there is something very American about their creation in that they feature idle time associated with ground travel. Many images come from photographs taken while I'm driving, or through my windshield while at a stoplight. I am also very attracted to what you can see from the front door of your motel. There is something inspiring, almost spiritual about driving long distances and surrendering to the road. I drive to California from Texas every year and never take anything resembling a direct route. This process reveals so many opportunities to be overwhelmed that I just can't resist it."

Robertson lives and works in Fort Worth. He received his MFA from the University of North Texas in 1998. In the fall of 2004, Robertson spent six weeks completing research that included a 28-day road excursion winding through the southwest United States, made possible by a Dozier Travel Grant awarded through the Dallas Museum of Art.

Robertson's work is included in such public collections as Dallas Museum of Art, Accenture Corporations, American Airlines, Texas Christian University, Hyatt Regency, among others.