

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Reception

Sunday, May 10, 3 – 5 pm

Art Thing

Tuesday, May 5, 6 – 7 pm

The artist and curator will talk informally about the exhibition.

About the artist:

Chicago-based artist Julian Williams received an MFA and BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He has taught drawing and painting at Columbia College Chicago, Evanston Art Center, Hyde Park Art Center, South Suburban College, and in the Chicago Public Schools. Recent exhibitions of his work have been held around Chicago, including the Open Door Gallery, South Side Community Art Center, and ETA Creative Arts Foundation Gallery. Williams often teaches the Portrait and Figure in Painting and Drawing class at the Hyde Park Art Center.

Select artworks are available for purchase. A pricelist is available at the Art Center’s front desk.

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions; primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by the Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Orbit Fund; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

The Cleve Carney Gallery

April 25 – June 28, 2009

**Julian Williams:
Recent Paintings**



Julian Williams, ELLAH, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 16 x 20 inches

Artists have been drawn to the genre of landscape painting throughout the history of art. The fascination with this genre often comes from the desire to depict and interpret the world that surrounds us, helping us to visualize the space in which we live. In his series of recent paintings, Julian Williams takes up the genre of landscape painting, using it to depict an interior rather than exterior landscape. In doing so he visualizes an entirely new space, allowing the viewer to traverse a psychological terrain.

This new series of work introduces a major departure from Williams previous topics addressed through his paintings. He has reinvested his energy and skilled technique to create enigmatic and unsettling abstractions that captivate our eyes and hold our emotions hostage.

The landscapes are painted from memory and imagination. In discussing his experience with creating these works, Williams explains that he found himself in a constant battle of trying to simultaneously achieve both mental and physical space. This personal battle plays out on the surface of each of the canvases in this series.



Dreams of Rothko, 1986, acrylic on canvas, 79 x 55 inches



Hibernation, 2003, acrylic on canvas, 48 x 50 inches

Void of any trace of human existence, and using a vibrant, and at times unnatural palette, these landscape paintings create a space somewhere between imagination and reality. At one moment the landscapes appear almost plausible, like a desert sunset or lightening within a gathering storm. In the next they appear completely impossible and only imaginable within the wildest dreams of the artist. In his effort to depict both mental and physical space, Williams creates a new, liminal space.

Standing in front of these paintings, the viewer is drawn into the landscape by the desire to find something there, traversing the space and scanning the horizon line in an effort to discover a deeper meaning or message embedded within. In the end, the striking yet uncanny landscape scene leaves the viewer with the dual emotions of serenity and disquiet.

Marina Gardiner
HPAC Exhibitions Assistant