



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**Boston University School of Visual Arts Presents**  
***Placing Color***

Boston, MA – The Boston University School of Visual Arts (SVA) presents a travelling exhibition *Placing Color* on view Tuesday, Tuesday March 17 through Friday, April 24, 2009 at the Sherman Gallery at Boston University. This exhibition will then go onto New York City in May. The opening reception is open to the public and will be held on Thursday, March 19, 5:30-7:30pm with the artists present. The exhibition features a full-color catalogue.

*Placing Color* is an exhibition that explores painting as both a place of action and destination. The exhibition presents paintings by three artists, two of which are School of Visual Arts alumni: **Brett Baker (CFA '99), Kayla Mohammadi (CFA '02), and Carrie Patterson.** Seen together, the artists' intensely individual approaches create places that are both intimate and immense, unified by sensitivity to the means of painting in ways of touch and color.

Painting, the simple means of placing color on a flat surface, is extraordinary in its ability to transport us from the context of our daily existence to new places - complete, vibrant worlds within the boundaries of a two-dimensional frame. *Placing Color* seeks to reposition the works by the participating artists beyond an interpretation of painting as a site of illusion. The exhibition extends the notion of the painted surface itself as a location or a destination that is defined by the artist's actions upon it.

***About the Work:***

**Brett Baker's** work explores painting as a place of interaction and repose where the artist's (and by extension the viewer's) presence completes the work. In his smaller paintings, densely layered over time, a balance of color and mark denies deep space achieving a presence not unlike a portrait of an abstract gaze that activates the space between viewer and work.

The artist's recent large paintings approach a scale normally reserved for sculpture and architecture. Each painting presents a single color on a vast scale. Though mural-sized, these works retain the

**Sherman Gallery Exhibition: *Placing Color***

intimacy of easel painting. Installed facing the wall, the viewer must actively enter the space of the painting, immersing himself or herself in color which seems to project outward itself inhabiting the space between painted surface and gallery wall.

**Kayla Mohammadi** works from observation of landscape, interior, or still life and seeks visual translation rather than literal portrayal in her paintings. Influenced by her dual Finnish and Persian heritage, her work seeks the unexpected place we encounter through sudden, fresh juxtapositions of form and color. In Mohammadi's paintings, memory, formal elements, and observation are competing energies that coalesce, asking us familiar questions: Can I walk into this space? Do I want to? Am I standing on solid ground, being pushed away, or finally stepping through to a new place?

**Carrie Patterson's** paintings investigate the tension between the memory of architectural space and the space of painterly process. Her work questions whether the physicality of a painting or collage can be representative of space without illusion. Influenced by architecture where light plays on structure and material, her recent work considers the “translation” of architecture into two dimensional objects .The goal is to feel (in the body), measure (in unexpected ways), and translate (via painting) how buildings both contain and hold the life of people who came before and, in turn, become the vessel of life for people who inhabit the spaces in the present. Patterson works on many canvases at once, altering the arrangement of line, shape and color in subtle degrees, much like a choreographer would alter a repetitive action across a stage.

***About the Artists:***

**Brett Baker** was born in Honolulu, HI. He earned a BA in Fine Arts from the College of William and Mary in 1995, a Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Painting from Brandeis University in 1997 and an M.F.A. in Painting from Boston University in 1999. His work has won numerous awards including a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in Painting (2002) and a Juror’s Prize from the eminent art historian and painter Andrew Forge (1999). From 1999-2001 he was Visiting Lecturer of Drawing at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He has exhibited work in group shows nationally, including Sideshow Gallery (Brooklyn), The Painting Center (NY), Sherman Gallery (Boston), New Bedford Art Museum (MA), Erector Square Gallery (CT), and Bowery Gallery (NY). Recent exhibitions include solo exhibitions at Simon Gallery (NJ), The Painting Center Project Room (NY) and an installation of large works at the Socony-Mobil Building (NY) curated by Suzanne Randolph Fine Arts. Baker lives and works in New York City and Worcester, NY. [brettbakerpaintings.com](http://brettbakerpaintings.com)

**Kayla Mohammadi** was born in San Francisco, CA. She received her B.F.A. in painting from the University of Washington in 1998 and her M.F.A. from Boston University in 2002. She recently received a Joan Mitchell Grant as well as a Dedalus Foundation Award for a fellowship at the Vermont Studio Center. In 2005 she was awarded the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation Grant; in 2003 the Blanche E. Colman Award from Mellon Bank. Past exhibitions of her work include: *Betwixt & Between: Color, Line, and Texture*, Courthouse Gallery, Ellsworth, ME; *Painters Who Teach*, Greenhut Gallery, Portland, ME; *Art Chicago 2007*, Chicago, IL; *New Work*, Dibden Center for Fine Art, Johnson State College, VT; *Susan Maasch Fine Art*, Portland, ME; *Marist College, A Place for the Genuine: 5 Abstract Painters*; Gallery 170, New Work, Damariscotta, Maine; *Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Biennial Juried Exhibition and CMCA's Print Show*, Rockport, ME; *Rose Art Museum, Spot-On Exhibition*, Waltham, ME, and *Particular Places Exhibition*, juror Bernie Chaet, Creative Arts Workshop Group, New Haven, CT. Since 2005 she has been an Art Lecturer at Brandeis University in Waltham, Ma. She has also taught at Massachusetts College of Art, the University of Massachusetts in Boston, and The Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University. Mohammadi lives in Boston, Massachusetts. [kaylamohammadi.com](http://kaylamohammadi.com)

**Carrie Patterson** was born in Tokyo, Japan. She earned a B.F.A in studio art from James Madison University and an M.F.A in painting from The University of Pennsylvania. In addition she was a student resident at The New York Studio School and The Vermont Studio Center. Her work has been exhibited across the country in venues such as The Painting Center in New York City, First Street Gallery in New York City, Bowery Gallery in New York City, Elizabeth Harris Gallery in New York City, Nexus Foundation for Today's Art in Philadelphia, Washington Art Association in Washington Depot, Connecticut, The Museum of Fine Art in Tallahassee, Florida, The Museum of Art in Asheville, North Carolina, and The Muscarelle Museum of Art in Williamsburg, Virginia. Internationally she has exhibited at Museo de Arte Moderno in Bogota Colombia. Ms. Patterson has received research grants from St. Mary's College of Maryland, The College of William and Mary, and The Leeway Foundation for the Arts. She also received a Virginia Governor's Fellowship to The Virginia Center for Creative Arts in 2003. She is an Assistant Professor of art at St. Mary's College of Maryland where she teaches drawing and painting. [carriepatterson.com](http://carriepatterson.com)

The **School of Visual Arts** at the College of Fine Arts was established in 1954 as a professional training school at Boston University. With faculty composed of practicing professional artists, the school offers

an intensive program of studio training combined with liberal arts studies leading to the Bachelor's of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees. Courses prepare students for future study or professional practice in painting, sculpture, graphic design, and art education. Notable alumni include painters Brice Marden and Pat Steir; Ira Yoffe, vice president/creative director of *PARADE* magazine; and Rick Heinrichs, the production designer whose credits include the "Pirates of the Caribbean" film series, "Fargo," and "Sleepy Hollow," for which he received an Oscar for Art Direction in 1999.

The **Boston University College of Fine Arts** was created in 1954 to bring together the School of Music, the School of Theatre, and the School of Visual Arts. The University's vision was to create a community of artists in a conservatory-style school offering professional training in the arts to both undergraduate and graduate students, complemented by a liberal arts curriculum for undergraduate students. Since those early days, education at the College of Fine Arts has begun on the BU campus and extended into the city of Boston, a rich center of cultural, artistic and intellectual activity.

#### **OPENING RECEPTION**

Thursday, March 19, 5:30–7:30pm  
Sherman Gallery

#### **ARTIST TALK :**

Brett Baker, Kayla Mohammadi, and Carrie Patterson  
Thursday, March 19, 4:00pm prior to the opening reception  
Sherman Gallery

#### **Sherman Gallery at Boston University**

775 Commonwealth Avenue, Second Floor, Boston  
[www.bu.edu/cfa](http://www.bu.edu/cfa) or 617-358-0295

#### **Gallery Hours**

Tuesday-Friday, 11:00am–5:00pm  
Saturday and Sunday, 1:00–5:00pm

*Admission is free and open to the public.*

#### **Media only**

*To request images or for more information, please contact either:*

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