

Brad Kahlhamer

THE SLOW GAME

Opening Reception: Friday, August 22, 2008, 5:00-7:00 pm
Exhibition Dates: August 21, 2008 - October 11, 2008
Contact: James Jernigan: jernigan@jameskelly.com



Brad Kahlhamer. *Community Board*, 2002-ongoing. Mixed Media instillation. 9 x 23 feet.

James Kelly Contemporary is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of Brad Kahlhamer's new work; this will be his second show at the gallery. This new show will consist of new paintings, drawings, dolls, and the artist's ongoing Community Board instillation.

Kahlhamer's images depict a melting pot of realistic and dream like scenes that contain images of spirits, skulls, animals, "urban prairie girls", and the occasional self-portrait. He often combines text within his compositions that ranges from stream of consciousness, to narratives that supplement the accompanying imagery.

Brad is of native decent, but was adopted by a middle class family of German-American decent that moved from Arizona to rural Wisconsin when he was young. He has always been somewhat of an outsider no matter what situation he is in. He is an outsider among Native's due to his lack of tribal affiliation and shared Indian experiences, and he is an outsider among the middle class white American's that he grew up with.

Kahlhamer describes his art as his "Third Place" a place where he can explore his cultural ancestry that he's been locked out of; it's also where his "First and Second Places" meet head on. For Brad his "First Place" represents his native heritage and his explorations of various tribes and their traditions through visits to reservations and meetings with native communities, and his "Second Place" is his white middle American heritage and the experiences that go along with it.

For the show Brad will be creating several new paintings as well as drawings and watercolors. A selection of kachina like dolls that he has made from scrap materials, found objects, animal fur, and even the artist's own hair will be included. The dolls have figural, abstract, and animal references and are influenced by native costumes and beliefs. Kahlhamer's ongoing *Community Board* project, which he started in 2002, will be installed in the gallery with new additions, the work changes slightly every time it is installed.

James Kelly Contemporary is located at 1601 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Gallery hours for the duration of this show are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00-5:00 p.m. - Saturday from 12:00-5:00 p.m. - Monday by appointment. Please call the gallery at 505.989.1601 - fax 505.989.5005 - email jernigan@jameskelly.com for more information.

- high resolution images available upon request -