Matt Magee, *Locus*, 2013, Oil on panel, 10 x 16-1/4 inches unframed.

Santa Fe, NM -- James Kelly Contemporary is pleased to present the gallery’s first exhibition by Matt Magee. This exhibition will consist of recent works by the artist, including approximately fifteen paintings and four sculptures.

Matt Magee moved to the Arizona in 2012 after living in New York City for 30 years. Magee completed the paintings and sculptures shown in this exhibition since moving to southwest
two years ago.

Magee worked as an archivist for Robert Rauschenberg for 18 years. Before that, as a young adult, he drove a seismic truck in Laredo, Texas, recording vibrations sent into the earth to collect data about underlying geologic formations. His paintings often resemble charts and graphs of collected information, or tablets and iPads with data read-outs. As an archivist, he filled in spreadsheets with inventory numbers and as an artist he fills in these very same grids with paint in works such as Ledger, Xantrion and Stillwater. These paintings also reference how light reflects off the surface of glass skyscrapers and water, and the life implicit behind the glass or under the water. The paint is the information.

The pictorial language in Magee's work includes things both observed and imagined. Roberta Smith wrote that Magee “samples an image bank of high and low abstraction.” An example of this would be the painting Narita, an image of the ground plan of the Narita International Airport in Tokyo as taken from an in-flight magazine. And from another perspective the painting Locus pays homage to a small Frank Stella diptych circa 1963 that Magee saw in a private room of a New York City gallery.

The Arizona sky and landscape influence the painting entitled Bandwidth, giving it the appearance of a series of receding horizon lines. Mountains on horizons, sunsets, and distant points and edges are visible in the desert.

Included in the exhibition are various sculptures, including Collection, a grouping of rocks that Magee collected and painted blue, and displayed atop a table. This color being a nod to both Yves Klein Bleu and to the Arizona copper industry, and refers to Azurite, a blue mineral, that is commonly found in Arizona’s copper deposits.

Hollow Bottle, Magee’s first cast bronze object, began as a plastic detergent bottle. He cut the sides from the bottle to create a sculptural void and then cast the shell in bronze. Artist Jason Dodge states that “sculpture is not something created from the outside, but something created from the inside.” Hollow Bottle illustrates this idea perfectly.

The overall theme of Magee's work is the fact that he creates from the inside out. The internal rhythms, although sometimes dissonant, inform the motifs, grids, lines and shapes of the finished artwork.
Magee was born in Paris, France in 1961 and subsequently lived in Tripoli, Libya; London; Dallas; San Antonio; Brooklyn; Manhattan; and now lives in Phoenix, AZ. He received his M.F.A. from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY and B.F from Trinity University, San Antonio, TX. He has received several awards including Tamarind Institute Residency, 2013; Josef and Anni Albers Foundation Residency, 2007; New York Foundation for the Arts Painting Grant, 2002; Pollock-Krasner Foundation Painting Grant, 1991; among many others.

Magee has exhibited with solo shows in various galleries around the United States including Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston; Knoedler Project Space, New York; Devin Borden Hiram Butler, Houston; Eight Modern, Santa Fe; River Gallery, Narrowsburg, New York; Bill Maynes, New York; Gerald Peters Gallery, Dallas.

Magee has exhibited in many group artists shows, too numerous to list individually. Magee’s work is represented in many public and private art collections, including, but not limited to the following:

- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque
- Goldman Sachs, New York
- Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, New York
- Beth Rudin DeWoody, New York
- Deedie Rose, Dallas
- Charles Cohen, Los Angeles
- Christophe de Menil, New York
- Anadarko Petroleum, Houston

For more information and visuals, please contact James Kelly,
James Kelly Contemporary, 1611 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501 USA

www.jameskelly.com  
email: jim@jameskelly.com

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Tel: 505-989-1601; fax 505-989-5005
Gallery hours: Tuesday – Friday 10AM - 5PM, Saturday 11 AM - 5 PM