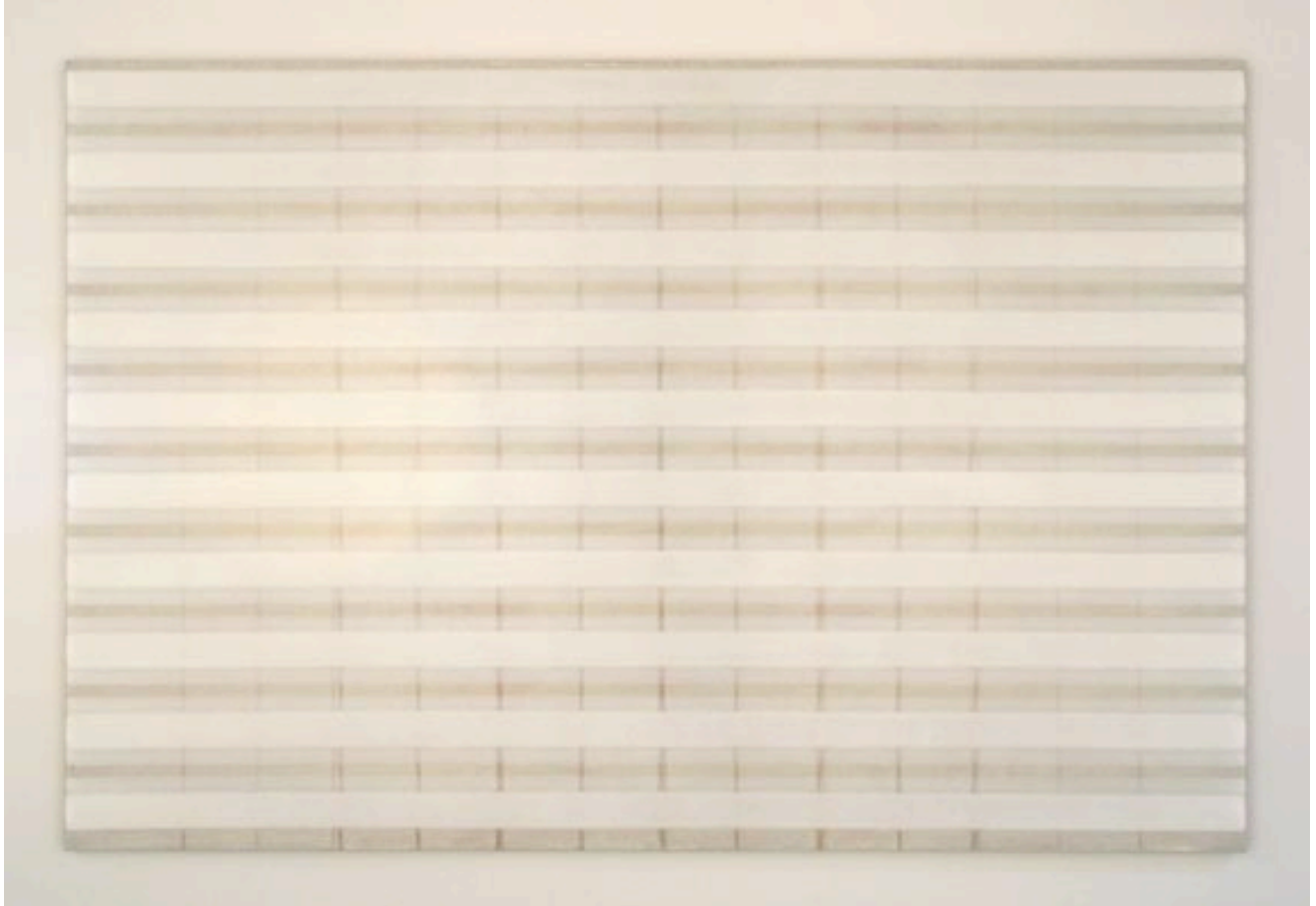


JAMES KELLY CONTEMPORARY - PRESS RELEASE  
1601 Paseo de Peralta - Santa Fe, NM 87501 - 505.989.1601

# Johnnie Winona Ross

## Deep Creek Seeps

Opening Reception: Friday, May 9, 2008, 5:00-7:00 pm  
Exhibition Dates: May 9, 2008 - June 14, 2008  
Contact: James Jernigan: [jernigan@jameskelly.com](mailto:jernigan@jameskelly.com)



Johnnie Winona Ross. *Deep Creek Seeps*, 2008. Oil & acrylic on bleached linen. 48 x 72 inches.

**James Kelly Contemporary is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of Johnnie Winona Ross's new work; this will be his second show at the gallery.** This new show will consist of new drip and grid paintings, as well as several firsts for the artist.

Ross, a long-time resident of Arroyo Seco, has for the first time completed several works in a horizontal format, which is a break from his traditional square canvas. The 6' x 4' works are beautifully rendered drip paintings, in which the horizontal thick titanium white bands seem to float above the underlying earth toned drips. The drips flow like rivers cutting a path through their surroundings, leaving their mark as they undulate back and forth among the rigid structural bands that overlay them. The drips follow the path that's dictated by gravity and the texture of the underlying surface, thus creating a juxtaposition between the rigid horizontal elements and the free flowing skeins of color.

In the grid paintings there is an overwhelming sense of atmosphere that comes from the luminosity of the vertical bands that seem to float above the plane, separating themselves from the horizontal elements, creating an optical illusion of depth in a two dimensional work. Ross has also, for the first time, employed a black ground made of carbonized bone with which he has built a grid painting upon. In this particular grid painting the transparency and opacity of the overlaying "white" bands is especially evident as the multiple layers shift the perception of the ground from black to grey.

Ross's works are very much a departure from the present day convention of mass produced, studio assistant dependant works. Every painting is made up of between 150-200 layers of paint that has been scraped and burnished in order to achieve the desired effect. Every element from the stretcher to the handmade copper nails that secure the bleached Belgian linen to the titanium, gypsum, and zinc paint is part of the all-natural elements that aid in the achievement of the works final Zen quality.

In December 2007 Radius Books published the first monograph on Ross's work from 1995 - 2007. To coincide with the release, Radius has also published a limited edition copy of the book that comes in a beautifully crafted clamshell box and is accompanied by a signed and numbered lithographic print.

Ross's work has been exhibited widely in numerous solo and group exhibitions, and is included in the permanent collection of museums such as The Harwood Museum in Taos, The Cleveland Museum of Art, The Portland Museum of Art, The Allentown Art Museum, & The Tucson Museum of Art to name a few.

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](mailto:jernigan@jameskelly.com) for more information.

- high resolution images available upon request -