

***Press Release***

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**SCOTT WHITE CONTEMPORARY ART** presents

**WILLY HEEKS**  
*Ocean House Paintings*

November 12, 2010 - January 8, 2011  
Opening Reception: Friday, November 12, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**(San Diego, California) - For Immediate Release**

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**EXHIBITION SUMMARY:**

Scott White Contemporary Art presents *Ocean House Paintings*, a solo exhibition by the award-winning Abstract Expressionist painter Willy Heeks.

The opening reception will take place on Friday, November 12 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in conjunction with *Kettner Nights*. Light refreshments will be served.

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**EXHIBITION DETAILS:**

Scott White Contemporary Art is pleased to present a new body of work by acclaimed artist Willy Heeks. Once described as “handsome messes” by Kenneth Baker of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Heeks’ paintings are carefully constructed and meticulously planned chaos of colors, textures, lines and forms. A seasoned gestural abstractionist, Heeks’ evolution as an artist is evident in his work. His paintings convey an elegant ease, exuberance and bravado that come with time and practice. Heeks depicts rich layers of acrylic and oil paints in various densities, splattered, poured and drawn to fill his canvas. The paintings depict a delicate balance of opposites - areas of improvised splatters and pours are layered with carefully drawn out lines and forms. Saturated areas of color find breathing room in areas of exposed canvas. Less successful abstract painters are often intimidated by the infinite possibilities of abstraction, creating work that seem incomplete, messy and rootless. Heeks’ work conveys none of these incoherencies, but rather depicts a confident completeness, finite yet free-flowing.

Robert Pincus praised Heeks, describing his work as something you can “lose yourself” in. Describing one of the paintings from Heeks’ last solo exhibition in San Diego in 2006, Pincus states: “[The work] moves from a passage of white that looks as light as a feather to an expanse

in layered oranges and reds that has the thickness of fog. The blue line highlighted in the title pulls your eye back to the surface of the picture like the hint of mapped territories superimposed on the play of colors in the painting.”

*Ocean House Paintings* will feature approximately 10 new works, ranging in size from small to large-scale paintings. Inspired by the views from his new seaside studio, the paintings are loosely inspired by the water.

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**ARTIST INFORMATION:**

**Willy Heeks** obtained his B.F.A. from the University of Rhode Island in 1973, the same year he attended the Whitney Museum’s prestigious Independent Study Program. He has been recognized in numerous honors and awards, including: an invitation to exhibit at the progressive P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in New York City in 1982; the Louis Comfort Tiffany Award; the Painting Award by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters; and the prestigious Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, twice – in 1997 and 2001.

Heeks has exhibited nationally and internationally for over three decades and received acclaims in major publications including *Art News*, *ArtForum*, *Art in America*, *New Arts Examiner*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, and the *New York Times*, among others.

For a complete bio of Willy Heeks, visit: [http://scottwhiteart.com/artists/heels/heels\\_bio.pdf](http://scottwhiteart.com/artists/heels/heels_bio.pdf)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST VISUAL MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT KATHLEEN CRAIN AT 619-501-5689, or email [kathleen@scottwhiteart.com](mailto:kathleen@scottwhiteart.com)

**GALLERY INFORMATION:**

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Hours:  
Mon – Fri, 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Sat, 11:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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