

Lloyd Dallett @ Kim Kieler Gallery

A Painted Haiku

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

THROUGH THE BLENDING OF CONTEMPORARY DESIGN ELEMENTS WITH ASIAN ACCENTS, artist Lloyd Dallett aims to find the 'still' in still life. Thirty pieces of her most recent work were unveiled during a recent opening party at the Kim Kieler Gallery, where they will remain on display through September 10th.

"Life is a moving target," said Dallett. "I think that's why I like art so much. It allows for an element of control and calm in a world that is overrun with variety and stimulus."

Dallett vividly remembers falling in love with painting. "I remember the moment I became an artist very clearly," said Dallett, who described her delight in taking painting classes at a friend's house and seeing Matisse's work for the first time. "We were dressed in smocks and given real canvases; I can still remember the smell of the oil paint. I was eight years old."

After moving with her family to San Francisco from Long Island at age eleven, Dallett soaked up a whole new palette. "I'd get on a bus and go to the Academy of Art College," she said. "At sixteen, it was amazing to feel that independent and just go and paint." Dallett graduated

from The Thacher School in Ojai, where she spent as much time as possible in the barn-turned-studio developing her portfolio in preparation for art school. "Painting is hopeful," she said. "You can always paint out the things that don't work. There are endless possibilities." She went on to study at the University of Colorado Boulder before transferring to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School and Tufts University. She also spent time abroad studying drawing in Munich.

Although she has only been to Asia once, Dallett has had a life-long fixation with Asian themes and subjects, which frequently show up in her work. The show at the Kim Kieler Gallery includes several pieces with textures inspired by a favorite book of kimono patterns or the shoots of bamboo Dallett sees outside her studio. Dallett also frequently travels to France, having lived a year in Paris and completed two artist residencies there. She has painted a series based on the map of Paris, which also appears in the show.

In addition to her great love of color and texture, Dallett finds the greatest inspiration from the support of her husband Richard, an independent cinematographer for TV and film, and their twelve-year-old daughter, Lucia. "When you have a family, it's not just you

in the world," she said. "That kind of support is so important when you're an artist."

Dallett spent three years as a textile designer in New York City and the remainder of her time there painting from her studio in Chinatown, but it took only three days of visiting with friends in the Santa Barbara area before she and her husband decided to relocate. "We were ready to move out of the city," she said. "I knew the area from having gone to school here and it felt like coming home."



Citrus by the Sea by Lloyd Dallett.
Acrylic on panel, 36" x 36"



Bowl with Bamboo & Kimono pattern by Lloyd Dallett.
Acrylic on panel, 36" x 36"

Kim Kieler Gallery is located at 1 N. Calle Cesar Chavez, Door 5. For more information, call 899-2299 or visit www.dallett.com.



Mary Johnson, Artist; Kim Kieler, Owner; Allison Marchus, Artist; Lloyd Dallett, Artist; Cristy Thom, Artist; and Teena Leonardi, Artist