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Wes Smith Press Release
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New Exhibit by Wesley Smith at Fein Art Gallery

Pittsburgh, PA, 8/15/12 – Classically trained painter Wess Smith will be displaying something different at Fein Art Gallery – highly interpretive, innovative digital collage. Recognized for his skill as a painter using traditional mediums, Smith’s recent success has been based on this new contemporary art form. Considered by many “the new face of mixed media art,” digital collage is gaining momentum as a fine art movement and now you can see some of the finest examples of this new media at Fein Art Gallery from September 7 through September 28. The show’s opening reception is on September 7 from five to eight PM.

Wess Smith’s work is exciting and richly textured and reflects his history as an artist. “I was first introduced to film-based photography while studying at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in the mid 60’s and became hooked. At first, I simply used photography as source material for my paintings as have many painters since the Impressionists”, said Smith in a recent interview. “In mid-career I went back to school and got a second Masters degree in video as an art form. Video evolved into the digital realm early, and digital still cameras came a little later, and when they did, I jumped in with both feet. About the same time, Photoshop software came along and the ability to manipulate images digitally was a clear path for me as an artist. Now I skip the actual painting with oils in favor of painting digitally, which offers far more latitude and flexibility and easily accommodates my interest in the photographic image.”

Smith’s previous work has been displayed in galleries, exhibits and museums all over the East Coast and he is a member of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh. This membership brings Smith into the company of other noted Pittsburgh artists such as Andy Warhol, Samuel Rosenberg, John Kane, Mary Cassatt, Philip Pearlstein and Louise Pershing, among many other successful artists of today.

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About Wess Smith:

Wess Smith completed his undergraduate studies at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore where he received the prestigious Governor of Maryland's Full Scholarship. His MFA, also earned at the Maryland Institute College of Art, was endowed by prominent Maryland landscape painter and Guggenheim Museum Trustee, Eugene Leake.

During his second year of graduate school, he received the Henry Walters Museum European Traveling Scholarship, studying the work of masters in Spain, France, England, Holland, Belgium, Germany and Italy.

Before receiving a second graduate degree in film and video at San Diego State University (where he studied with Desi Arnaz, the head of Desilu Productions), he taught studio courses and Art History at Coppin State University for ten years.

After a sabbatical from teaching and gallery tours, Wess Smith has returned with renewed brilliance, and this exciting new palette.

About the Fein Gallery:

The Fein gallery offers an array of talent and tastes coupled with a history of customer satisfaction.

The gallery staff specializes in commercial as well as residential installations of large-scale projects to the design trade or direct to the public.

The gallery also offers stained glass design, fabrication and installation.

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