

CHARLIE SMITH london Ltd.

336 Old Street
London EC1V 9DR
United Kingdom

+44 (0)20 7739 4055
direct@charliesmithlondon.com
www.charliesmithlondon.com

Wed-Sat 11am-6pm or by appointment

EMMA BENNETT

Death & Co.

Private View

Thursday June 3rd 6.30pm–8.30pm

Exhibition Dates

Friday June 4th – Saturday July 3rd 2010

Gallery Hours

Wednesday–Saturday 11am–6pm or by appointment

CHARLIE SMITH london is delighted to present Emma Bennett's first one person show at the gallery.

Drawing on her previous paintings of still life elements set against expansive void-like grounds, Bennett proposes a contemplation on time, space and the fragility of the human condition. Underlined by a wistful acknowledgement of the sublime and the tragic, Bennett embraces the idea of the *memento mori* in her delicate application of appropriated imagery combined with expressive techniques derived from 20th century abstract painting.

In 'Death & Co.' Bennett continues to excavate 17th and 18th century Dutch painting for figurative motifs. She now averts her attention from images of hunted game that populated her previous work towards the maritime painting of Willem van de Velde, Jan Porcellis or Hendrik Jacobsz Dubbels. In doing so, Bennett's monochromatic grounds become representational spatial fields, at once figurative and abstract, with sailing ships appearing from or receding into night time nothingness. As the artist states:

"The vessels appear to be travelling into the void-like space of the canvas. These ships represent individual journeys through life and reflect on the isolated state of people as they make their journeys, whether through passages of calm waters or treacherous high seas."

Solitude, the passage of time, and a sense of becoming are alluded to, as are notions of value systems and materiality. Referring to the Dutch Golden Age, in which international trade and enterprise established the Netherlands as a world power, Bennett subverts conventional notions of wealth and emasculates historical power systems by freighting imperial ships with beautifully rendered still life fruits and flowers. Thus, in this fascinating new series of paintings, Bennett questions the dominance of commerce throughout the ages and undermines its use of authority and dominance.

Please contact gallery for images and further information

Biographical:

Born: 1974

Education: 1997 – 1998: MA in Fine Art, Chelsea College of Art and Design; 1993 – 1996: BA (Hons) in Fine Art, Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design

Selected Exhibitions: 2010: Death & Co (Solo), CHARLIE SMITH london, London; New British Painting, Gallery Kalhama & Piippo Contemporary, Helsinki; 2009: The Future Can Wait, Old Truman Brewery, London; New London School, Galerie Schuster, Berlin; 2008: The Future Can Wait, Old Truman Brewery, London; 2007: The Future Can Wait, Old Truman Brewery, London; Equinox, Sarah Myerscough Fine Art, London; 2006: Nocturnal, Sarah Myerscough Fine Art, London; John Moores 24 / Liverpool Biennale, Walker Gallery, Liverpool; 2002: Emma Bennett: New Paintings (2002), Danielle Arnaud Contemporary Art, London; 2001: A Month in the Garden, The Museum of Garden History, London; 2001: Bittersweet, Danielle Arnaud Contemporary Art, London

Collections: K & K Kollektion, Monaco; David Roberts, London; private collections in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States