

## Kim McCarty *Boys & Girls*

October 25, 2012 – January 12, 2013

Reception: Thursday, October 25, 6 – 8pm

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 – 6pm



Morgan Lehman Gallery is pleased to present *Boys & Girls*, a solo show of new watercolors by Kim McCarty. This is the artist's first solo show with the gallery. The exhibition opens on October 25 with a reception for the artist from 6-8pm, and will be on view through December 22, 2012.

After working for many years in oil paint, McCarty began using watercolor when her California studio was destroyed by wild fire. Since then, McCarty has embraced it as her primary medium and has set out to execute her works on a larger-than-life scale. McCarty uses a wet-on-wet technique, saturating the form with water before applying pigment with a loaded brush to the paper. When the pigment hits the water-laden paper, it creates soft ripples of color and gradations of value, expressing both flaws and perfection, and the dichotomy between uncertainty and focus. The process is extremely fleeting and an image is either created or lost within seconds. Working with watercolor, particularly a wet-on-wet technique is notoriously difficult to control, and it can take weeks to create a work that has the artist's desired delicate balance of realism and abstraction.

McCarty's imagery and compositions are derived from personal photographs. She uses these images as specific references to develop a particular pose or composition. The figures or "beings" all seem related, familial - perhaps a human subspecies. They are capable of communicating a feeling or a mood that is universal, yet deeply intimate and personal. Some figure's express longing, others seem sexy and intriguing, some innocent and unaware of our voyeurism. In these boys and girls we see our emotional selves reflected, and catch a glimpse of the fragility and tenuousness of the human experience.

For further images, information or press inquiries please contact the gallery.