

3721 Washington Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

# NEWS RELEASE

October 1, 2012

## GARY PASSANISE: *PAINTING*

**Damon Freed:** *En Plein Air* (Front Room)

**William Morris:** *black/white TV* (New Media Room)

### Opening Reception:

Friday, October 19, 2012, from 5 to 9 pm

### Dates of the exhibition:

October 19 – November 24, 2012

### Gallery Talk:

November 24, 2012 at 3 pm

For further information and images please contact:

Bruno L. David, Director

Public Hours: Wednesday through Saturday

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

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## BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BY GARY PASSANISE

SAINT LOUIS, MO – October 1st, 2012 – Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present **Gary Passanise's** second solo exhibition with the gallery, *Painting*, on view from October 19<sup>th</sup> to November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. In a career spanning over three decades, Gary Passanise has worked fluidly in a variety of media. In the upcoming solo exhibit, we see a return to his roots in large-scale painting. Gary Passanise will be giving a Talk on his current work at the Bruno David Gallery on Saturday, November 24 at 3 pm. A catalogue, **GARY PASSANISE: PAINTING**, with a new text by **Dr. Jeffrey Hughes** and **Nicole Yen** will be published on the occasion of the exhibition.

Passanise engages a reduced palette and deceptively emotive compositional effects in his most recent body of work. The results reveal the confidence of an experienced hand and an always searching and advancing intellect. Although the work in his second solo exhibition is primarily two-dimensional, his ability to create space and movement reveals his experience with different surfaces and forms. In comparison to Passanise's previous solo exhibition at the Bruno David Gallery in which he employed brighter colors and clearer shapes, he now explores the almost eerie luminosity of white surrounded by hazier space. Passanise creates the veil-like effects found in many of his recent works in a number of ways, including soft gradients, gentle drips, and rough swipes with a paintbrush. The contrast of light and dark tones, in addition to purposefully executed blurring, creates a sense of secrecy within the paintings that piques the viewer's curiosity.

Passanise received his B.F.A. from Webster University Saint Louis, and his M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He has exhibited his work nationally and internationally and has been the recipient of numerous awards and endowments, including the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts (1994); the Pollack Krasner Foundation Award (1989) and the Ford Foundation Award (1981). His works are in the collections of the Stuttgart Museum of Contemporary Art, Germany; Central Academy of Art, Beijing, China; Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, Ohio; and Springfield Art Museum, Missouri. Passanise is currently Professor and Director of Painting at Webster University's Leigh Gerding College of Art.

In the **Front Room**, the gallery presents a new exhibition titled “En Plein Air” by **Damon Freed**. In 1836, Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote in *Nature*, “In the tranquil landscape, and especially in the distant line of the horizon, man beholds somewhat as beautiful as his own nature.”

Freed’s landscape drawings stemmed from the recognition of a coming summer, coupled with a strong desire to get out of the studio and away from painting for a while. He wanted to wipe the slate clean. “Drawing is so fundamental to creation,” says Freed, “Without any ideas or concepts by your side, you’re very much in the moment. Charcoal allows you to get down what you see in a very speedy, fresh and open way. After painting abstract for some time, drawing from direct observation, or “en plein air”, seemed a good way to start anew, having last undertaken charcoal drawing since about three years ago. I took to it like a bee to flowers and participated in a kind of symbiotic reverence for the subject. A strong feeling of oneness with nature proceeded from the process. It was good to feel small and humble again in the arms of big nature.”



Damon Freed works and lives in Missouri. He received a M.F.A. from Hunter College, New York, and a B.F.A. from the School of Visual Arts, New York.

In the **Media Room**, the gallery presents a single-channel video work titled “black/white TV” by **William Morris**. The 40-second one-channel video originated in 1988 as an experiment with the Sandin Image Processor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The Sandin Image Processor, invented by electronics engineer and visual artist Dan Sandin, is an analog video processor/image synthesizer comprised of hand-built electronic modules capable of being interconnected to produce various special effects, which alter the incoming video signal. These modules could be configured by the user in a number of different ways to create a wide range of analog video effects. Sandin sought to expand the video artist's palette in such a way as to free its user from the limiting choices of the professional video effects generators of that era.



With Sandin's philosophy as a starting point, *black/white TV* moves in an opposite theoretical direction. Here its original elements are reassembled in non-linear form. It uses the simplicity of black and white broadcast television imagery combined with digital processing to comment on the increasingly compressed, parsed nature of all information.

William Morris lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri. He received a M.F.A. in Video Art at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a B.F.A. from Washington University in St. Louis.

## Upcoming Events at the Bruno David Gallery:

Public Gallery Talk at the gallery on Saturday, November 24 at 3 pm.

### Photos:

Gary Passanise: Studio view (2012)  
Damon Freed: “Cloverdale I”, 2012. Charcoal on paper, 10-1/8 x 14-1/8 inches  
William Morris: “black/white TV” (video still frame), 2012

### OUR SEVENTH SEASON 2012 - 2013 ART PROGRAM

JOAN HALL	September/October 2012
GARY PASSANISE	October/November 2012
GROUP EXHIBITION	December 2012/January 2013
KELLEY JOHNSON	January/February 2013

### ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Specializing in contemporary art, Bruno David Gallery has been a leading art gallery since its establishment in 2005. Bruno David represents some of the best artists that St. Louis offers, along with artists of national and international reputation. Located in a renovated industrial building in Midtown St. Louis, Grand Center arts district, the Gallery is directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM), and is in close proximity to the Sheldon Art Galleries, The Fox Theatre, and Powell Symphony Hall. Bruno David Gallery's art program introduces new contemporary art to local gallery visitors, and is discussed in publications including, *Art in America*, *Art Papers*, *ArtNet Magazine*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

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