

**JAMES SHAY
New Paintings**

September 4 – October 17, 2004

Susan Street Fine Art Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new landscape paintings by James Shay, opening September 4 through October 17, 2004. This is Mr. Shay's first solo exhibition at the Gallery, located in the Cedros Design District at 415 S. Cedros Avenue in Solana Beach, CA.

James Shay's new paintings reflect his ongoing love-affair with the natural forms of California's beautiful coastal valleys. From his studio in Lucas Valley, near Point Reyes Seashore, north of San Francisco, he has created a series of vibrantly colored paintings that embody the sensuous lines of the surrounding landscape.

Shay's distinctive use of color, form and line to evoke the oak-studded hillsides and valleys of this northern California typography constitutes a contemporary style that merges his personal, highly intuitive manner of expression with concepts and techniques drawn freely from modern abstract painting, in particular, Color Field. The paintings evolve from spontaneous Prismacolor pencil *underdrawings* into records of specific places in which the primacy of the expression rests with large areas of color. The bucolic, rolling hills and trees of his beloved terrain are paired down and transformed—the geography of forms delineated as fields of compressed energy.

The artist's choice of medium is casein, a millennia-old medium originally made of pigment suspended in organic substrates such as curds and egg whites. Its appeal is that it dries to a beautiful, fresco-like finish that also allows for extensive reworking during the painting's creation through the use of sandpaper, styluses, and other devices. The resulting works are amalgams of abraded and textured surfaces which offer occasional glimpses of the original drawing visible below.

Concurrently, the Gallery is also exhibiting new abstract paintings by Los Angeles-based artist Curtis Ripley.

Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm; Sunday, 12 – 4 pm. For more information and visuals please call Luis De Jesus, at 858-793-4442, or email galler@susanstreetfineart.com.