

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 15 works

April 1-30, 2011

Ann Long Fine Art

54 Broad Street

Charleston, SC 29401

(843) 577-0447

• SHOW LOCATION CHARLESTON, SC



MARIO ROBINSON

Leaving home

In his new exhibition at Ann Long Fine Art in Charleston, South Carolina, Mario Robinson pushes his work not only as far as medium goes, but also in the subject matter he is pursuing. His current show of oils, pastels and watercolors deal with Robinson's move at the age of 13 from the rural town of Altus, Oklahoma, to Key Port, New Jersey.

"Altus is very rural so when I got to New Jersey I wore cowboy boots and a cowboy hat to school and I just didn't fit in," says Robinson. "I was also raised by my great-grandmother in Oklahoma, so when I moved with my mother and stepfather to New Jersey, I got disconnected with all the generations of my family in Oklahoma."

One of the paintings that deals with this issue is *Ticket Booth*. The painting shows a woman who Robinson has been friends with for a long time and while the painting is very personal, it is different from some of the Southern work he has done in the past.

"That place is just down the street from me and it is completely packed during the summer months," says Robinson. "So I waited until fall when there was no one here and put her out there enjoying the ocean, the bleakness of it. And her pose symbolizes my connection to the area. She is enjoying the ocean on her own terms."

Robinson also is incorporating more backgrounds into his pieces, which differs from his earlier work that focused on the form and facial expressions of the people he depicted.

"Before, it was one hundred percent about the subject and their expressions," says Robinson. "And, I would use those expressions to draw the viewer in. Now, I'm hinting toward places from my childhood and using them as vessels to discuss my move from Oklahoma and its traumatic effect on me. All these images are from Key Port, New Jersey. I love my earlier work, but that represented only one part of my personality and tastes." •

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



www.americanartcollector.com



MAJOR'S GENERAL STORE, WATERCOLOR ON PAPER, 9 X 12"



THE NOVELIST, OIL ON PANEL, 11 X 14"



TICKET BOOTH, WATERCOLOR, 35 X 25"