

JACK HANLEY GALLERY

April 19, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saskia Leek

Thick Air Method

May 10 – 31, 2008

Opening reception: Saturday, May 10th, 6-9pm



The Jack Hanley Gallery, San Francisco is pleased to present a solo exhibition by New Zealand-based painter Saskia Leek.

Saskia Leek began exhibiting her paintings in the early 1990s, her subject matter being drawn from real and imagined memories of growing up in Christchurch. Her naïve, almost childlike style established her reputation as an artist who was willing to question accepted principles of ‘good painting’. Initially the works appear crude and amateurish; her naïve style is often absent of scale and perspective. Leek’s choice of media, acrylic on board, as well as the flatness with which she depicts her subject matter evokes a second-hand quality.

This exhibition introduces Leek’s most recent work. While the paintings abandon specific references to time and place, they convey an autobiographical dimension and suggest things from Leek’s past, both real and imaginary – drifting sailboats, perched cats, and crystallized landscapes; things left behind but not forgotten. Her bleached palette even recalls the faded colors of memory - pastel yellows, faint blues, washed out greens and hazy pinks.

Saskia Leek was born in 1970 in Christchurch, New Zealand. From 1988-1991 she studied at The Canterbury School of Fine Arts, Christchurch, where she obtained a BFA. Leek has shown widely throughout New Zealand and recently had a solo exhibition at Darren Knight Gallery in Sydney, Australia. She currently lives and works in Auckland, New Zealand.

For more information or images, please contact Ava Jancar or Ashley Bellouin at: (415)522-1623, or visit our website at: www.jackhanley.com.

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