

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Benjamin Butler
Mountain Paintings
29 November 2002 through 04 January 2003

Team Gallery is pleased to announce that it will present a solo show of paintings by Benjamin Butler. Entitled "Mountain Paintings", the exhibition will run from the 29th of November 2002 through the 4th of January 2003. The gallery is located at 527 West 26th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, on the ground floor.

Earnest in the extreme, Butler's pictures of mountain scenes become oddly subversive in their overwhelming emotional vulnerability. The slight scale and the immediacy of the paint handling belie a genuine love of the subject matter that seems at odds with most contemporary painting. One might label them Sincerity Plus.

Butler's Mountain Paintings found their genesis in an entirely personal event -- the artist was asked by his grandmother if it might be possible for him to make her a landscape painting. Butler's attempts to perform this simple favor developed into the rigor of his studio practice. The emotional underpinnings of her initial request created the model against which the artist began to evaluate the success of the individual pictures. Would they live up to her expectations, and might they also be something that could exist within the parameters of the New York art world in 2002?

The twenty-odd paintings on display at Team show trace evidence of pastiche, of art history, of pop culture, of the cartoon, and of irony and, as such, reading these landscape paintings becomes something of an archeological project. Given the choice of Paul Klee and Bob Ross, one wonders if Butler would not choose the latter for most of the same reasons, we would choose the former.

We had asked Butler to supply us with some material with which to build a press release. He responded with this list: euphoria, empathy, Americana, poetry, music, mountains, discovery, exploration, celebration, happiness, modesty, simplicity, minimalism, expressionism, love songs, country living, city life, landmarks, Hallmark, sadness, melancholy, fantasy, optimism, monumental, magical, mysterious, moments.

This is the 27-year-old painter's first one-person show. For further information and/or photographs please call the gallery at 212.279.9219.