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SARAH WILLIAMS: OUTSIDE THE COUNTY SEAT

October 8–November 20, 2011

ArtWalk Opening, Saturday, October 8, 6 to 9 pm

Gallery Talk at 6:30 pm

GALVESTON, Texas, September 15, 2011—Galveston Arts Center is pleased to present an exhibition of recent paintings by Denton-based artist Sarah Williams titled **Outside the County Seat**. The exhibition will open during the October 8th ArtWalk and remain on view through November 20, 2011. Curator Clint Willour will lead a gallery talk with the artist beginning at 6:30 pm during ArtWalk. The event is free and open to the public.

A painter of landscapes, Williams images are inspired by the rural American Midwest where she grew up. Carwashes, parking lots and gas stations stand vacant and isolated, surrounded by the cloak of night, hauntingly illuminated by industrial lighting. Using darkness to edit out extraneous visual information, the artist focuses on sources of light and the ways in which it plays upon different surfaces. “I paint nightscapes of familiar yet isolated and unremarkable buildings, rooms and scenes located in rural areas,” writes Williams. “The artistic language applied to slightly familiar yet hauntingly isolated areas permits me to transform the common place and make the insignificant, significant.” Affected by varying weather conditions and seasons of the year, distant horizons glow against inky skies, while porch lights illuminate the desolate environs of a rural country farm house or neon reflects off of a bank of snow. These nocturnal settings, radiating with unspecified sources of light, are both visually captivating and eerily mysterious at the same time.

Williams received a BFA from William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri, in 2006, and an MFA from the University of North Texas, Denton, in 2009. Recent solo exhibitions of her work have been presented at McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph, Missouri, and Marty Walker Gallery, Dallas. In 2010, Williams was a finalist for the Hunting Art Prize. She currently teaches drawing at the University of North Texas, Denton.

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Galveston Arts Center is operating in a temporary downtown location on the corner of Market and 25th Streets. The exhibition gallery and selections from GAC's retail gallery, ArtWorks, are open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. Admission is free at all times. A flyer listing all ArtWalk participants with times and locations can be downloaded at www.contemporaryartgalveston.org.

SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

Funding for the Galveston Arts Center is provided by the Houston Endowment, Inc., The Brown Foundation Inc., The City of Galveston Park Board of Trustees through the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund, The Meyer Levy Charitable Foundation of The Dallas Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts, Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund, Levin Family Foundation, Jack and Annis Bowen Foundation, Dr. Leon Bromberg Charitable Trust Fund, and the generous support of the community, an active membership and many volunteers. GAC's *Art for All* Education Program is supported in part by the Alice Taylor Gray Foundation, Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation, Galveston Rotary Foundation, Inc., and the Jr. League of Galveston County's Community Assistance Fund.

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