

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 17, 2011

Long View Gallery presents "Containment and Diversion", Thomas Burkett's first solo exhibition in Washington, D.C.



Trap Series (1-3), Oil, acrylic, concrete and colored pencil on paper, 26" x 36"

September 1 – October 2  
Opening Reception: Thursday, September 1, 6:30 – 8:30pm  
Food and beverage provided by Windows Catering

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Long View Gallery is pleased to announce *Containment and Diversion*, featuring approximately 15 mixed media works on paper by Washington-based artist **Thomas Burkett**. This marks the first solo show of Burkett's young career. Thomas' work explores topics currently headlining news stories around the country. Wide spread water shortages in much of the south caused by the breakdown of manmade containment and diversion equipment, exemplifies his belief in our inability to exact control over nature.

Growing up in the grandeur of the Western United States, Thomas Burkett gleaned an impression of invincibility and an air of confidence that abundant land resources is a right of passage. Now, as an outside observer, he realizes his utopian West is both a place of grandeur and illusion. An urban identity now confronts his notion of abundance with the reality of a water crisis and a realization that we have settled in an environment that challenges our subversive tactics of control. Determined to examine our control of water, the work in *Containment and Diversion* portrays the damming, diverting, and polluting of water – life's most vital substance.



part gallery. part event space. all art.

1234 ninth st nw | washington, dc 20001 | 202.232.4788 | longviewgallery.com

“Man made structures that the river encounters become fixtures of the land, blurring the line between a truly natural environment and one that is contrived and artificial. In frequent travels back to my birthplace and specifically to regions called Salmon River and Hells Canyon I have run in to the confrontation of my past associations with these places. As the environment changes and we construct buildings and implement ways to constrain our surroundings the potential for a natural human experience with the space suffers.”

Reexamining the visually cataloged images he has of the West, in its most sublime and aesthetic states, Burkett, through his work, confronts our attempts to conquer, convert, and inhabit such a hostile environment. Burkett’s abstract paintings, a mixture of oil, acrylic colored pencil and concrete, document the flow of water as it pours over mountains, rushes down rivers, disappears in to canyons, swells behind dams, and diverts in to canals.

Abstract in style, the color palette is undeniably a reference to his life out West. Water is present in varying shades of blue while the gorgeous natural architecture of the Grand Canyon rings through subtle hues of orange, red and yellow.

Long View Gallery  
1234 9<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 232-4788



long view gallery

part gallery. part event space. all art.

1234 ninth st nw | washington, dc 20001 | 202.232.4788 | [longviewgallery.com](http://longviewgallery.com)