

# CHARLIE JAMES GALLERY

CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Angeles, CA  
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## SAN FRANCISCO ARTIST WALTER ROBINSON'S FIRST SOLO SHOW IN LOS ANGELES

**Charlie James Gallery, at 975 Chung King Road, Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**Presents *Transport* - A Solo Show by Walter Robinson**

**Dates:** February 14, 2009 – March 14, 2009

**Artist's Reception:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 6 – 9pm



**Charlie James Gallery** is pleased to announce LA's first solo exhibition of work by San Francisco-based artist Walter Robinson. In *Transport*, Robinson examines the range of promises that inhere in automotive advertising and design, and further meditates on the aims of art and commerce to objectify the sublime.

The work in *Transport* seeks to destabilize the power of the automotive product logos that surround us. With wry wit, Robinson juxtaposes the aesthetic forms of abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko with once familiar emblems of discontinued American car models. Invoking the Rothko style attaches its connotations of transcendence and spiritual meaning to the work in the show. These images play sharply with the talismanic energy of car emblems and their promise to transmit power (status, freedom, escape, speed, mobility, masculinity, etc) to the person who owns them. Using the bright color combinations typically identified with early-50s Rothko paintings, sharply applied in this instance in a style reminiscent of custom car culture, Robinson inserts the logos of now-defunct American cars. The once-fearsome Plymouth Fury, favorite of state patrolmen around the country, is matched with a darker hued Rothko pattern, perhaps a concession in tone to

the model. In putting these images together, Robinson shows us two very different means to transcendence, one promised by consumer expression, made in Detroit, and another available through Rothko's abstract art. While rich in contrast, Robinson reminds us that fine art and fine automobiles share fundamental similarities, in that they are both objectifications of something sublime and intangible. The work also functions elegiacally, as a remembrance of American cars' past, and of the promised transcendence associated with the art of American Abstract Expressionism.

**Walter Robinson** creates sculptural installations that deliver slick candy coated indictments of popular and corporate culture, sometimes further emboldened with tactile resin coated surfaces, glitter and cheap gems. He has been featured in solo exhibitions at the San Jose Museum of Art and Villa Montalvo—his work is included in many public and private collections, including the di Rosa Preserve: Art & Nature, the San Jose Museum of Art, and the Djerassi Foundation. His work has received critical attention from a number of publications including *ArtReview*, *Vanity Fair*, *Artforum*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. An alumnus of Lone Mountain College's master of fine arts program, he also studied for a time at the San Francisco Art Institute and the California College of the Arts and Crafts. Robinson lives and works in San Francisco.

**What: Solo Show – Walter Robinson - *Transport***  
**When: February 14 to March 14, 2009**  
**Where: Charlie James Gallery, 975 Chung King Road. Los Angeles, CA 90012**  
**Special Event: Artist's Reception - Saturday February 14, 2009 6 – 9 pm**

**About Charlie James Gallery:** Charlie James Gallery formed in 2008 in Seattle, WA and had its debut in Chinatown, downtown Los Angeles in November of 2008. The gallery exhibits emerging and mid-career artists confronting issues of contemporary cultural significance. Housed in a 1947 Chinatown manufacturing building and newly redesigned by Dane Johnson, the gallery is situated amidst numerous other contemporary art galleries of strong reputation. The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday from 12-6. For more information please visit [www.cjamesgallery.com](http://www.cjamesgallery.com) or email [info@cjamesgallery.com](mailto:info@cjamesgallery.com).

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